Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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'Green awards' for Tan Holdings, Peterka, Kramer, Friends. **PAGE 6**

Stray dog captures the limelight in 'PAWS Wars' **PAGE 19**

Battles of Saipan, Tinian remembered

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Five visiting veterans who fought in the Battle of Saipan from June 15, 1944 to July 9, 1944, including Ken Stinson, front right, Marven Avilla and James Golden, second from rear right, lead the laying of wreaths at the Flag Circle and Court of Honor at the American Memorial Park in Garapan yesterday for the 65th commemoration of the Marianas campaign during World War II. Also in photo is the outgoing commander of the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas, Rear Admiral William D. French, rear right, whose father fought on Saipan during the war.

65 YEARS AFTER

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

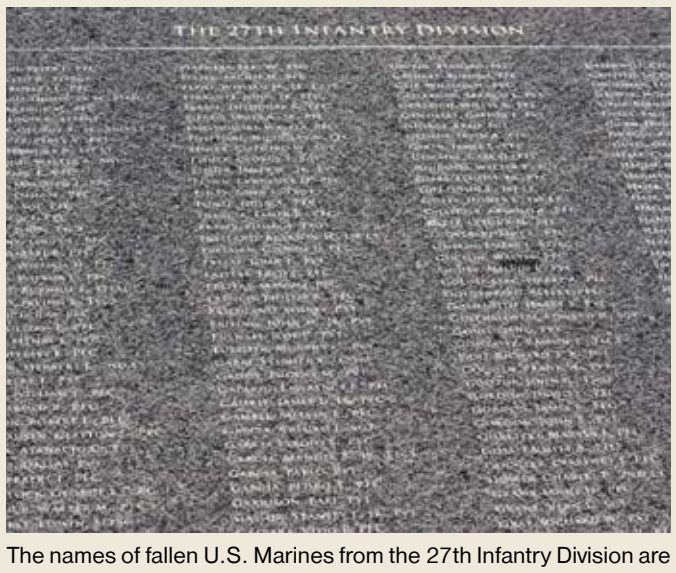
Seven World War II veterans, including five from the U.S. mainland and two from the CNMI, showed up yesterday at the 65th commemoration of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian at the Court of Honor of the American Memorial Park.

See BATTLES on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CNMI Marine Scout Manny "Kiyu" Villagomez, third from left, poses with visiting veterans who fought in the Battle of Saipan from June 15, 1944 to July 9, 1944, after the 65th commemoration of the Marianas campaign at the Flag Circle and Court of Honor at the American Memorial Park in Garapan yesterday. From left, Marven Avilla, James Golden, Villagomez, Joe Olivera, Ken Stinson, and Lyman Franklin.

June 15, 1944: Invasion Day



The names of fallen U.S. Marines from the 27th Infantry Division are inscribed in stone at the Court of Honor of the American Memorial Park.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By DON FARRELL
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: on June 15, 1944, U.S. forces begin invasion of Japanese-held Saipan Island in the Marianas in Pacific. The following historical account was originally published in the Saipan Tribune *on June 15, 2003 and is being reprinted to mark the occasion.*

Sixty-five years ago today, June 15, 1944, at 5:42 in the morning, Vice-Admiral Richmond Kelly Turner, commanding officer, Northern Attack and Landing Forces, reached for the microphone on the bridge of his command ship, USS *Rocky Mount*, and gave

See INVASION on Page 4

Toribiong: Detainee move to Palau is tentative

TOMOKO A. HOSAKA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

KOROR, Palau (AP)—The tiny Pacific island nation that agreed to accept 13 Chinese Muslims from Guantanamo prison has offered itself as a safe

See TORIBIONG on Page 4

AP

Palau President Johnson Toribiong speaks during an interview at a Koror beach in Palau, Saturday, June 13, 2009.

POLL RESULTS

Do you support a further one-year delay in federalization to Nov. 28, 2010?

Yes	39
No	157
Undecided	2
No opinion	1

Sunday, June 14, 2009

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 6

As of June 12, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Pistang Pinoy
A good number of people joined the annual "Pistang Pinoy" at the Civic Center in Susupe.

LOCAL...Page 14

Local

Live the Fiesta Way!
What's cooking this week at Chambre BAR
Healthy Menu
Main Course
MONDAY- Rock Fish (Swin?Miso Flavor with Shiitake Mushroom
TUESDAY - Sautéed Chicken Breast with Mustard, Tarragon
WEDNESDAY - Yose Nabe
THURSDAY - Chicken Braest Pot au Feu
FRIDAY - Salmon with Teriyaki Sauce
Including: Hot Vegetables, Tofu, Soup, Salad Bar & MORE....
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Hofschneider, Shrestha are top Tinian seniors

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian High School named Edward Hofschneider and Nisha Shrestha this year's top graduates, both receiving the highest academic achievements bestowed on a graduating student.

Hofschneider led over 40 graduating seniors with the Board of Education Award while Shrestha received the Commissioner's Award.

EDWARD HOFSCHNEIDER
Board of Education Award

NISHA SHRESTHA
Commissioner's Award

The two were lauded for their academic excellence and for their successful representation of the school in numerous school programs and competitions here and abroad.

In his message, Hofschneider emphasized the importance of family and thanked his parents for putting so much hard work into raising him.

"After four years of academic struggles, emotional conflicts with others and ourselves, and the occasional disagreements and banter, we have all come to realize just how difficult life can be and it is difficult when we're taught conformity instead of unity, appearance instead of essence," he told graduates. "But we also realize how different we are from one another and how our individual uniqueness makes the world all the more better…and what Ralph Waldo Emerson once said that there is a time is every man's education when he arrives at the conviction that envy is ignorance; imitation is suicide; that he must take himself for the better for worse as his portion."

This year's salutatorian, Nisha Shrestha, said she is extremely happy to reap the rewards of her hard work.

"Lots of challenges came my way but I was determined to overcome those challenges. It feels good tonight. In the last five years I learned so many things from my teachers, my family, and my friends. But most of all I learned from my own mistakes. The challenges of gossip, the drama, stress that I come across made me a better and a stronger person. For every challenge that I overcome had prepare me to continue with my life long journey. And I am determined to enjoy the journey to find passion on what I want to do and continue to seek new challenges," she told the crowd.

Shrestha intends to pursue a degree in nursing, with plans to return to the CNMI to serve her people.

WSR names Gariguez, Mateo top graduates

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

William S. Reyes Elementary School conferred its highest academic honors on Marielle Gariguez and Angelica Mateo, who emerged this year's Commissioner and Principal's

See WSR on Next Page

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BRUCE L. MAILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

MAYA B. KARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

Embezzlement case vs trash collector junked

The Superior Court on Friday dismissed the case against a 59-year-old trash collector accused of embezzling $1,630 from a trash collection company.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed with prejudice or with finality the case against Ernesto Reloza after the Office of the Attorney General filed a motion to dismiss the charge.

The jury trial was scheduled last Friday, but assistant attorney general Matthew Meyer requested the dismissal of the case.

Meyer did not indicate in the motion the reason for his request to drop the case.

In November 2008, the OAG filed an information charging Reloza with one count of theft by failure to make required disposition of funds received.

Reloza allegedly obtained $1,630 in payments from customers that he should have paid to TC Co. from January through April 2008.

Police said that in January 2008, TC Services, a trash collection company, hired Reloza. The defendant was formerly employed with another trash collection company that was closing down.

The defendant allegedly failed to submit the payments to TC services he was receiving from the customers.

Reloza denied the charges. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

WSR

From Page 2

awardees during a commencement exercise Saturday at the Multi-Purpose Center.

Besides leading the class of 88 sixth graders, the 12-year-old Gariguez also received other awards and recognitions, including the Presidential Excellence Award, Best in Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, and Chamorro Class.

Gariguez, the daughter of Loida Bocatot and Mariano Gariguez, expressed surprise at all the awards she bagged. "I was so surprised…and I am so proud," Gariquez told *Saipan Tribune*,

She dedicated her achievements to her family and said she's excited to begin junior high school. "Hopefully I can learn more and find new friends!" she said.

MARIELLE GARIGUEZ
Commissioner's Award

ANGELICA MATEO
Principal's Award

WSR keeps the list of its student awardees secret until the announcement at the ceremony.

Her mother Loida said she's very proud of her 12-year-old girl, who always bring honor to the family.

"I wish her all the luck in her junior high school. The family is so proud of her and we will continue to support her to the end," she said.

Principal's awardee Angelica Mateo, the daughter of Arlene and Virgilio Mateo, also received nine other special recognitions and awards. Mateo will continue her middle school at Ladera International School of Saipan.

She thanked her teachers and parents for believing in her capabilities. "I thank all of them for the support, love, and genuine care for me all throughout my years at WSR," she said.

Named WSR Peace Builder Awardee was Joelynn Sablan while the Kingfisher Award went to Tracey Lou Limes.

Students in the Top Ten included Mary Joy Aglubat, Anne Genevie Marcado, Catherine Cabalquinto, Antonette Kapileo, Joseph Kileleman, Roxanne Artates, Mobtasim Alam, Angelica Mateo, Marielle Gariguez, and Tracy Lou Limes.

TORIBIONG

From Page 1

haven before.

Palau, famed for lush tropical landscapes and spectacular diving, earlier agreed to take in former Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot and rescued Afghan refugees, its president said Saturday. But neither of those two deals panned out.

"It's our age-old tradition to receive those in need whenever they somehow arrive on our shores," President Johnson Toribiong said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Palau, a former U.S. trust territory about 500 miles (800 kilometers) east of the Philippines, made headlines last week after agreeing to President Barack Obama's request to take the 13 Chinese Muslims, known as Uighurs, after other countries turned Washington down.

Toribiong, however, said their transfer is not a done deal and described the likelihood of their arrival as "50-50." And even if they do arrive, it won't be for another two or three months, he said.

"It's still tentative, it's not definite yet," he said.

"The two previous times, we agreed, but they didn't come."

The plan to temporarily move Pol Pot, the Cambodian dictator accused of genocide, to Palau before he faced an international tribunal never materialized because he died mysteriously in bed in April 1998, Toribiong said.

Several hundred Afghan refugees that Palau agreed to accept after they were rescued from a sinking boat near Australia in 2001 were sent instead to Nauru, another small South Pacific island.

Toribiong, interviewed by the AP at a beachfront resort, said he had never heard of the Uighurs until the U.S. approached him earlier this month. He has sent four Palauan officials to Guantanamo Bay in Cuba to learn more about them.

Palau is one of the world's smallest countries, with about 20,000 people scattered over 190 square miles (490 square kilometers). Only nine of its 340 islands are inhabited. Most residents work in tourism, construction, fishing and farming, leading modest lives in stark contrast to the extravagant resorts enjoyed by its foreign visitors.

Toribiong cautioned against the perception that the detainees were being released into a tropical paradise.

"We struggle everyday," he said. "They're coming to a developing country with many, many islands and a diverse population. We need people to help Palau develop."

The Uighurs (pronounced WEE'-gurs), a Turkic people from China's far western region of Xinjiang, were captured in Afghanistan and Pakistan in 2001. The Pentagon determined last year that they were not "enemy combatants."

Sending them back to China was not an option because of concerns that Chinese authorities, who consider them violent separatists, would immediately arrest the men.

Four other Uighurs left Guantanamo Bay on Thursday for a new home in Bermuda, setting off a political firestorm there. Britain reprimanded officials in its Atlantic island colony over the deal with the U.S., and dozens of residents criticized the government for its decision to accept the former prisoners.

China has demanded that all the Uighurs be sent home. It has filed a formal objection to Palau's mission to the United Nations, Toribiong said. Palau, however, has no diplomatic relations with China and recognizes rival Taiwan instead.

The Palau team, which includes a doctor and education specialist, will interview the detainees and tell Toribiong how his government should prepare for their possible arrival.

"Then we wait for the U.S. to tell us whether they agree to bring them here or change their minds," Toribiong said.

Palauan authorities have yet to determine where the Uighurs would live, or what they would do. The government will build houses for them if needed and offer orientation to the nation's language and culture.

They will likely be confined to Palau since they do not have passports.

"If they come to Palau and become constructive, positive, friendly residents, it will be OK," Toribiong said. "We have 445 Muslims living with us right now. We have no problems."

INVASION

From Page 1

the order: "Land the landing forces." Eight thousand U.S. Marines began the 4,000-yard run toward the white sand beaches north and south of Sugar Dock. The white sand would soon run red with blood—mostly American. There were twice as many Japanese waiting for them than expected.

The Japanese military leadership had begun to suspect that the Marianas might be America's next major objective after Rear Admiral Marc A. Mitscher swept through the islands with his fast attack carrier force on Feb. 23, 1944. Mitscher's flyboys had three missions that day: take reconnaissance photographs, attack Japanese ships and aircraft and interdict communications. They also destroyed such targets of opportunity as the sugar factories on both Saipan and Tinian, destroying the economy of both islands.

Veteran Japanese Army units were immediately re-assigned from Manchuria to defend the Marianas. These battle-hardened troops realized that they would be the protectors of their nation's inner defensive line. They knew that if the Americans captured the Marianas, the Japanese home islands would become vulnerable to air attack. Their homes, their families and friends would be in jeopardy. The Japanese soldiers and sailors who arrived on Saipan were psychologically prepared to sacrifice their lives for the sake of their homeland. They would either successfully defend Saipan or make the Americans pay a heavy price for islands that had become dear to Japan since 1914.

The Americans left their anchorage in Majuro Lagoon, Marshall Islands, on June 6, the same day Allied forces began landing at Normandy. Eight new fast carriers, 8 light carriers, 7 new fast battleships, 13 battle cruisers and 58 destroyers, all under command of Admiral Raymond Spruance, Commander-in-Chief, 5th Fleet, steamed toward Pagan, Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam. Although the attack was scheduled to begin on the morning of June 12, Rear Admiral Mitscher's advance carrier fleet was discovered by Japanese snoopers on the morning of the 11th. Mitscher requested and immediately received permission to launch his aircraft. His 16 carriers launched 900 aircraft. Suddenly, these peaceful, tropical islands literally became "hell on Earth."

On June 13, Vice Admiral "Ching" Lee joined the bombardment of Saipan and Tinian with his seven new battleships, firing 16-inch shells weighing nearly a ton each. Saipan shuddered under the blast of American broadsides. The concussion alone of a single barrage was enough to knock a man down. The noise was deafening. It was still dry season. Saipan burned.

Two 96-man underwater demolition teams spent the early morning hours of June 14 placing landing buoys parallel to the reef to help guide in landing craft. While the frogmen were doing their thing, the "old" battleships, aka the "Pearl Harbor survivors," arrived on Saipan: 8 refurbished battleships, 11 cruisers, and 26 destroyers. Under the command of Rear Admiral J. B. Oldendorf, they replaced Lee's new battleships on the firing line. The more experienced crews of these veteran vessels manned their guns well and took pride in pounding away at targets that had not been knocked out by the lesser experienced crews of the newer ships. As per orders from Spruance, their objective was to destroy every building that might serve as a hiding place for a Japanese rifleman. Admiral Chuichi Nagumo, leader of the Pearl Harbor attack, sacked by Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto after the Battle of Midway and assigned to Saipan, now found himself on the receiving end of gunfire from the same ships he had sunk at Pearl Harbor. To his amazement, here before his eyes was that very fleet—risen from its watery grave.

In the dark morning hours of the 15th, Turner's attack forces arrived off the west coast of Saipan. Marines and GIs were fed the last hot meal they would enjoy for weeks. Many would lose it on the ride to shore. For some, it would be their last.

On shore, the civilians were running for their lives and hiding wherever they could. They didn't carry canteens full of water or cans of C-rations. They could only scramble between shells and gunfire, searching for food and water for themselves, their families and friends. Those few who had foreseen the American invasion had stored rice. Others ran the gauntlet of bombs in search of sustenance. Many would not make it. Yet today, some *man'amko* carry a small bottle of water in their purse.

As dawn broke, the fighting troops began climbing down boarding nets into the small amphibious vessels for the ride to shore. They circled up and then formed a battle line. The ships offshore began the invasion day air and naval bombardment. Carrier borne aircraft swept the beaches with rockets and machinegun-fire. The western shoreline of Saipan became shrouded in smoke and fire. It appeared to replacement Marines that no one could survive the massed gunfire of the U.S. Navy. Veterans of the Gilbert and Marshall Islands campaigns knew better.

The Japanese had expected the Americans to land inside the western Saipan lagoon, which they did. Lt. General Yoshitsugu Saito, commander of the Northern Marianas Army Group and the 43rd Imperial Army Division, and Admiral Nagumo, commander of all Japanese naval forces on Saipan, commanded a defensive force of 29,662 veteran men, a truly formidable force.

Working cooperatively, they had emplaced their heavy artillery in well-prepared defensive caves from Dandan to Tapochao. Flags were placed in the harbor and on the beaches along the anticipated American lines of advance. Japanese gunners had been allowed to expend practice rounds, zeroing in on the flags. In order to take the Americans by surprise, Saito and Nagumo ordered their gunners to withhold their fire and remain inside their protected caves until the Marines approached the flags. The Japanese fire would prove to be deadly.

As the Marines hit the beach, the Japanese artillery opened up, joining the machinegun fire from bunkers all along the landing beaches. Dazed Marines found themselves scrambling for cover as they leapt from their amphibious tractors, dashing past the carnage on the beach to the relative safety of a destroyed landing craft, a shell hole or a tree stump. Bullets from thousands of rifles and machine guns—Japanese and American—buzzed in every direction.

Within eight minutes the Marines began fighting for control of the Chalan Kanoa airstrip. The beach behind them became congested as the Corps' artillery came ashore. Eight LST's filled with the 2nd and 4th Division artillery landed right behind the troops that had come ashore in amphibious tractors. Two more LSTs landed the XXIV Artillery with their 155 mm howitzers and rifle guns. They quickly took assigned positions and began counter-battery fire. In testimony to the determination of the Japanese defenders, of the 20,000 men from the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions who landed on Saipan that day, 10 percent were killed, with a similar number wounded. Accurate Japanese mortar and artillery fire prevented the Marines from achieving their Day 1 objective. They were pinned to the beach, digging in before nightfall and the anticipated Japanese counterattack.

Nagumo and Saito were well satisfied with the situation as dusk fell on June 15. Their artillery remained intact. Their reserves were prepared to move forward. And their tank battalion was prepared for a multi-pronged counterattack. Moreover, both were well aware that Vice Admiral Jisaburo Ozawa, Commander-in-Chief, Japanese Imperial Mobile Fleet, had left his anchorage in Tawi-Tawi, Philippines, and was charging toward Saipan. With the support of Japanese land-based aircraft at Palau, Truk, Guam, Rota and Pagan, they were confident that Ozawa would destroy the American fleet. Then, together, they would crush the Americans on Saipan.

Admiral Spruance and Lt. General Holland M. "Howlin" Mad" Smith, Commander, Landing Troops, had other ideas.

BATTLES

From Page 1

One of them, seaman first class Lyman C. Franklin was an 18-year old cook/baker aboard USS *Paul Hamilton* when his ship bombarded the Japanese stronghold of Saipan and Tinian in 1944. Now 84, Franklin said he would always be proud of their accomplishments in securing Saipan and the role they played in the war's Pacific theater.

This was the second time that Franklin attended commemoration rites for the Battles of Saipan and Tinian. He was also here during the 50th anniversary in 1994.

Franklin, who lives in Wake Falls North Carolina, were joined at the commemoration rites yesterday by Kenneth Stinson (Navy), James Golden (Navy), James Olivera (Army), and Marvin Avilla (Army).

Saipan's Manuel "Kiyu" S. Villagomez and Nicolas Q. Muna also joined the event.

Ten other veterans, represented by their families, were honored, including Jimmy Kemp, Raymond Thomas Dobeski, Roy D. Walton, Rodney D. Walton, George Connolly, Ignacio Sablan, Antonio Tenorio, and Robert F. Reed.

Rear Admiral D. French, commander of the Naval Forces of the Marianas and yesterday's keynote speaker, said his father, a Battle of Saipan veteran, saw the ruins of Garapan and witnessed the steadfast patriotism of the Chamorro and Carolinian people.

He said his father was stationed near the top of Mt. Tapochao. "Like my father, I'm blessed with this opportunity to stand on Saipan and gaze at the same beautiful ocean. Today, however, I see a rebuilt Garapan, rebuilt because of the strength of this Commonwealth's people, strength that is as evident to me as it must have been to my father," French told over a hundred guests that included the crew of visiting USS Thach headed by Commander David Haas.

He said the American victories on Saipan, Tinian and Guam helped turn the tide of the war. Securing Saipan and Tinian, he said, was vital because it allowed the U.S. military to build airstrips on the islands, including those from which Bockscar and Enola Gay began their historic flights, leading directly to the end of the conflict with the Japanese.

An estimated 3,000 Marines died during the Battle of Saipan that began on June 15, 1944, from the southwestern side of the island. The Japanese had heavily fortified the islands with about 30,000 garrisoned troops. It took the American landing forces three grueling weeks to capture the island.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos delivered a message on behalf of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who is in Utah for the Western Governors' Association 2009 Annual Meeting.

Inos recalled that, with the liberation of the Northern Marianas, the U.S. was able to secure additional islands, including Palau, the Philippines, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa and run sorties right into the heart of imperial Japan, finally ending the war and restoring peace.

"Today we are at peace with Japan. Japan is a strong ally and a major trading partner of the United States. Japanese tourism make up the largest segment of the CNMI's tourism market," Inos said.

He said forgiveness and reconciliation for both sides have already been achieved as well as rebuilding the devastated societies.

"But we always remember how far we have come and where we came from, and how we arrived at this point, particularly on this occasion," Inos said.

The visiting war veterans were hosted to a sunset dinner and lagoon cruise aboard the vessel Puti later in the afternoon.

They will have their Camp Fire Talk at 6pm to 8:30pm at the Yellow Beach near the Pacific islands Club today.

‘$3.45M fuel contract with Shell to save gov’t $116,130’

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The government’s over $3.45 million contract with Shell Marianas includes a savings of at least $116,130 compared to what Mobil Oil Mariana Inc. proposed, data from the Department of Finance’s Procurement and Supply Division shows.

Acting Finance Secretary Bob Schrack said the government will save $103,724 in unleaded gasoline and $12,406 in diesel fuel under its contract with Shell compared to Mobil’s proposal.

Shell’s contract with the government, totaling $3,450,522, has the following components:

Unleaded fuel: $2,226,744—951,600 gallons at $2.34 a gallon

Diesel fuel: $1,073,778—427,800 gallons at $2.51 a gallon

Lubricant: $150,000 a year

The government completed a contract with Shell on May 29, two days before it ended its contract with Mobil on May 31.

“Shell won the bid by offering lower prices on both unleaded and diesel,” Schrack told *Saipan Tribune.*

At the time of the bid, Shell and Mobil’s pump price of unleaded gasoline was $3.129 a gallon.

Schrack said Shell offered a discount of $0.789 for a net price of $2.340 per gallon of unleaded fuel, while Mobil offered a discount of $0.680 for a net price of $2.449 a gallon.

As for diesel fuel, Shell and Mobil’s pump price was $3.299 a gallon.

Shell gave a $0.789 discount for a net price of $2.510 a gallon, while Mobil gave a discount of $0.760 for a net price of $2.539 per gallon of diesel.

“Based on the $0.109 unleaded price difference and the $0.029 diesel price difference, savings to the government would be $103,724 and $12,406 respectively,” Schrack said.

Finance’s accounts payable system also shows $33,965 due to Mobil as of Friday.

These are recent billings related to fuel purchases by various government departments prior to the expiration of Mobil’s contract on May 31.

RYDLYME CASE UPDATE

Judge nixes compelling disclosure of source in juror-witness relations info

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has dismissed the U.S. government’s motion to compel the lawyers of former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, James A. Santos, and Joaquina V. Santos to reveal the identity of those who had disclosed the relationships between some witnesses and jurors in the Rydlyme case.

In his decision issued Friday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson ruled that the prosecution’s motion to compel is moot.

Munson cited as reason U.S. attorney Jeff Strand’s conclusion that he had been provided enough information during the hearing to enable the U.S. government to begin its investigation.

The judge also cited the defense counsel statements that they did not acquire any information until after the guilty verdict had been rendered.

“When allegations that go to the heart of the judicial process are made, it behooves all participants to seek out the truth,” Munson said.

Last April 24, the jurors declared Villagomez, his sister Joaquina Santos, and his brother-in-law James Santos guilty of conspiracy to commit offenses against the U.S., wire fraud, theft concerning a program receiving federal funds, and bribery.

Despite this, Villagomez and Joaquina Santos still filed a motion for judgment of acquittal, a motion to disqualify Munson, motion for a new trial, and motion for judgment of acquittal or new trial.

The defendants claimed in a motion for a new trial that they received information that at least five jurors and one alternate juror were related to some government witnesses or a government investigator.

In response, the U.S. government filed the motion to compel and a motion for in camera inspection. The court heard the motion to compel last Thursday.

In his decision dismissing the motion to compel, Munson said by this motion, the U.S. government seeks to identify the person or persons who first divulged the alleged unacknowledged relationships between certain jurors and government witnesses in order to conduct its own investigation and to learn exactly when this information came to the attention of defense counsel.

“All defense counsels stated as officers of the court that they do not know where the information came from and that none of the information was known to them prior to the verdict. This would explain their failure to object during trial,” Munson said.

Woman gets 30 days for stealing company checks payable to govt

The Superior Court has imposed a 30-day prison term on a woman who stole and forged her former employer’s checks amounting to $12,608 that was payable to the CNMI Treasury.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Christine Biala Fidelino to five years in prison, all suspended except for 30 days, for theft.

Wiseman said there will be no possibility of parole.

The judge placed the defendant on five years’ probation and ordered her to pay back the amount to U.S. Fashion Group Inc., owner of Papaya Clothing.

Wiseman ordered Fidelino to start serving her prison term on June 22 at 8am. He also required her to write a letter of apology to the victim and perform 300 hours of community service.

Wiseman ordered Fidelino to pay a $100 fine, $100 court assessment fee, plus probation fee.

The Office of the Attorney General charged the defendant with five counts of theft and five counts of theft by deception.

Fidelino signed a plea agreement with the OAG. She pleaded guilty to one count of theft.

The agreement stated that on various dates starting Dec. 15, 2006, and ending on Aug. 10, 2007, Fidelino stole five checks from Fashion Group that were payable to the CNMI Treasury. She altered the checks to make them payable to herself. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Laurie Peterka, second from left, poses with the chairs of Beautify CNMI after receiving the Environmental Champion award Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, third from left, Ed Cho, and Ed Arriola Jr. pose with the chairs of Beautify CNMI after being presented with the 2009 Environmental Champion award.

'Green awards' for Tan Holdings, Peterka, Kramer, Friends of Monument

Beautify CNMI named yesterday a corporation, two individuals, and the group that pushed the creation of the marine monument as winners of its annual Environmental Champion and Environmental Steward Awards.

The awards—given out to recognize individuals, organizations, and businesses that have proven to be environmental leaders in the Commonwealth—were handed out at the Beautify CNMI/PAWS Boonie Dog Show on Saturday, June 13, at the CPA Airport Field.

This year Beautify CNMI's Environmental Champions are Tan Holdings, Laurie Peterka, and Ken Kramer.

Tan Holdings was recognized as a model of corporate environmental responsibility. Under the leadership of president Jerry Tan, Tan Holdings employees and friends have been part of several environmental projects over the past year. All Tan Holdings offices on Saipan participate in a Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle program and the company participates in a reusable shopping bag campaign with Joeten. Employees, often with the participation of management, regularly participate in cleanups, including the recent islandwide cleanup.

Laurie Peterka and Ken Kramer were recognized for their roles in the creation of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. Kramer was so inspired by the concept of the monument that he quit his job so that he would have more time to collect signatures. Kramer was the largest signature collector for a petition being circulated in support of the monument, collecting over 1,000 signatures at the Garapan Street Market, in front of stores, at the Sabalu market, and door to door. Kramer also penned nearly two dozen letters to the editor, educating newspaper readers about the benefits of a monument. Peterka is being recognized for the role she played as staff with the Pew Environment Group. According to one of her nominations for the award, "Laurie has been the backbone of the Friends of the Monument's efforts: always there, always supportive, keeping things moving, doing much of the organizing, writing, scheduling, as well as a lot of the scut work."

Beautify CNMI also recognized the Friends of the Monument as its 2009 Environmental Stewards. Friends of the Monument was formed to help promote the idea of creating a national marine monument in the waters around the three northernmost islands of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Friends of the Monument engaged in activities to help educate the community—distributing leaflets, conducting meetings, and coordinating with teachers for classroom presentations. The organization gathered more than 6,000 signatures on petitions in support of the designation of a Monument. The Friends sent representatives to Washington, D.C. to meet with White House officials, and participated in television and radio public service announcements and advertising. Ultimately, they were instrumental in the process that resulted in former President George W. Bush designating the Marianas Trench Marine Monument, along with three larger national marine monuments.

The Environmental Champion award recognizes a person or group that exemplifies the Beautify CNMI spirit. Those qualities include volunteerism, cooperation, innovation, creativity and the ability to infect others with the Beauty Virus. The Environmental Champion is a role model for others to follow. They bring environmental issues to the forefront of public consciousness. They make things happen and effect change.

The Environmental Steward award recognizes a person or group that leads the community in activities that help protect our environment in a variety of ways. This individual or group has demonstrated the need to take pride in the islands and to take care of the place everyone calls home. They serve as an example for others, especially the next generation, to follow.

Beautify CNMI recognizes Steward and Champion Awards winner each year in Spring. Nominations are taken from the community at-large and the Beautify CNMI committee chairs select winners. ***(PR)***

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Bail of auditor in theft case reduced

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman on Friday reduced the bail of a gas station outlet auditor who allegedly stole $7,000 from a company owned by NMI Crime Stoppers Program board chair James T. Arenovski.

Wiseman granted Virginia C. Hernandez's motion to modify the $5,000 cash bail initially imposed by the court for her temporary liberty.

The judge allowed Hernandez to be released to a third party custodian upon posting 10 percent of the $5,000 cash bail—$500—plus $4,500 unsecured bond.

Wiseman ordered the Department of Corrections to take a photograph of Hernandez and submit the photo to the Office of the Attorney General. The picture should be distributed to the airport and seaport on Saipan to make sure the defendant doesn't leave the islands, the judge said.

Wiseman set the arraignment for June 22.

Police arrested the 43-year-old Hernandez at the Saipan International Airport last Wednesday as she was reportedly about to fly to the Philippines.

Hernandez, an outlet auditor of Delta Management Corp., was arrested on charges of theft and theft by failure to make required disposition of funds received.

Arenovski is president of Delta Management Corp., which owns some Shell gas stations on the island.

Police said the chief auditor of Delta Management Corp. discovered on May 29, 2009, that $7,000 was missing from the account of Island Marine Sports, a client of the Shell gas station in Susupe.

As outlet auditor, Hernandez handled the daily sales reports for the history of Island Marine's account. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Man hit by car in Garapan

An ex-convict was struck by a car along Middle Road in Garapan when he ran across the highway after allegedly stealing an alcoholic beverage from a store Saturday afternoon.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric David told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Angel Taman was treated and later released for minor injuries at the Commonwealth Health Center.

David said he has no information whether Taman was arrested for stealing at 99 Cents.

David said that based on information he gathered from the traffic supervisor, Taman stole a bottle of soju from 99 Cents.

When Taman ran and crossed Middle Road, a passing car hit him. He was seen lying on the road before medics transported him to the Commonwealth Health Center.

The accident scene is located in front of CHC.

David said he has no information yet whether there was damage to the car.

In December 2007, Taman allegedly burglarized an apartment room in Garapan and stole a purse containing jewelry and other documents.

A responding police officer later arrested Taman. The stolen purse was recovered behind a poker arcade in Garapan. The Attorney General's Office charged Taman in that case. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

'New WIC food guide will benefit farmers'

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The plan to change the approved food guide for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children under the Department of Public Health would benefit local farmers in the CNMI.

WIC clinic manager Dianne Esplin, RD, said the change in the guidelines, which will be implemented in October this year, will feature less milk and less juice. Instead, there will be more fruits and vegetables.

"I think this would benefit local farmers in the process. It is a real boost for them," she said.

She said the plan will also reduce the cost of foods that WIC program clients can buy in designated stores, especially with the current economic situation.

Esplin explained that this would not just be implemented in the CNMI but in all U.S. states and other territories.

"It has been over 30 years since the last change in the [guidelines]. Dietitians and nutritionists have been requesting for the change for a long time," she said.

Esplin said that New York is already using a new guide but the federal government has not yet approved the proposed packages.

The guidelines suggest what WIC program participants can buy in designated stores. The food guide includes cereals, infant cereals, infant formula, milk, juice, eggs, peanut butter, dried beans, cheese, tuna and carrots.

It also tells clients how to make choices at the store like checking the valid dates on food instruments, sizes and brands that are approved by WIC program, and other things.

WIC is a nutrition program that helps pregnant women, new mothers, and young children eat well, learn about nutrition, and stay healthy.

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Red flag up at 3 Saipan beach sites

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the beaches at the San Roque School, American Memorial Park and San Antonio Lift Station and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations were found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and drainage every Wednesday. This week, the vision analyzed samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water taken from 38 locations on Saipan's coast.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 15, 1999

Gambling operators cry excessive tax

The House Ways and Means Committee may look into complaints by local lotto and jueteng or numbers game operators that the government has imposed excessive taxes on their businesses in a first step to correct any inequity. Committee Chair Rep. Karl T. Reyes said both gambling operations have to cough out for commission fees and earning tax aside from paying the usual taxes, such as business gross revenues tax and a $150,000 license fee. Since these taxes go to the General Fund, the representative said a legislation will have to be passed to amend existing tax laws in a bid to bridge the loopholes.

Nurses told to be culturally sensitive

With the globalization of health care, nurses must be culturally sensitive to understand the beliefs, values and practices of patients to be able to provide cross-cultural health care, according to Mary Curry Narayan, a board member of the Home Healthcare Nurses Association. Speaking before the 21st American Pacific Nursing Leaders Council Conference, Narayan said patients immediately recover when health care is given in a culturally competent way. A certified transcultural nurse and a clinical specialist, she reminded her colleagues that cultural competence is taking their insights and knowledge about culture and incorporating them into practice for the benefit of patients.

June 15, 2000

CIP injects $97M into NMI economy

The Commonwealth has matched nearly 100 percent of the total $49.6 million in total funds earmarked by the United States under the third Capital Improvement Project Program which stretches from Fiscal Year 1996 to 2002, according to government documents. This amount represents some $97.5 million in fresh money circulating in the local economy that brings prospects for increased business activity amid dramatic slowdown in the entry of new investments into the Commonwealth. The money has financed 47 infrastructure projects throughout the three major islands of the Northern Marianas. Saipan received $70.579 million for 24 projects, while Rota and Tinian received $12.345 million each for 13 and 10 infrastructure projects, respectively.

Quarantine confiscates veggies, seafood products

The Division of Quarantine yesterday confiscated approximately 400 pounds of imported vegetables and seafood products consigned to individuals originating from South Korea and the Republic of Palau. The items were seized from DS Corporation (dba XO Market) and DaeSan Corporation (dba New Mart) by Quarantine Inspection Officer Juanette Camacho due to lack of proper documents that would declare the products as safe to enter Saipan. Giant clams reportedly endangered in Palau brought in by a Palauan nationa, are currently being held by Quarantine officials for further investigation.

June 15, 2001

Transfer of power looms

The House of Representatives yesterday passed a legislative initiative giving municipal councils the authority to introduce and approve local measures, a power currently held by legislative delegations. Once passed by the Senate and approved by the Commonwealth's voting public, Legislative Initiative 12-13 will grant municipal councils the power to act on projects like street-naming and other revenue-generating programs. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio earlier tossed back to the Legislature House Bill 12-141, which contains provisions similar to that of HLI 12-13 allowing each chartered municipal council to pass local laws exclusively on local matters.

Turnover rate in local job market slips

The Department of Labor and Immigration disclosed a declining trend in the number of local workers jumping from one employer to another due to the current economic conditions. DOLI also attributed the trend to the notable improvement in the local employment setup. They said local residents are holding on to their jobs now more than three years ago. Division of Employment Services Director Alfred Pangelinan disclosed that CNMI's improving job retention rate can be associated with the local workers' growing satisfaction with the type of jobs they hold.

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SPAM® COOK-OFF OFFICIAL RULES AND CONDITIONS

1. Eligibility. This Contest is open only to contestants who are at least 18 years of age or older and amateurs. Professionals are not eligible to enter. For purposes of this event, "Professionals" are defined as anyone who makes money through professional cooking, including, but not limited to chefs, food editors, home economists, and food preparation editors. Employees of Dickerson & Quinn, Joeten Enterprises and the immediate families of each are not eligible to enter.

2. The SPAM® Cook-Off will be held at Joeten Susupe on Saturday, June 20, 2009 at 1pm and will be limited to twenty (20) contestants. Contest registration will be on a first-come, first serve basis. To enter the contest, individuals must submit their name, address, daytime phone number and recipe; all information is to be typed on an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper, to the Dickerson & Quinn offices, CTSI Building, Sister Remedios Drive, Lower Base, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm. All contestants will be required to sign the Official Rules upon entering the contest. Each contestant may enter only one recipe for one of the following categories: original appetizer, casserole, stew, stir-fry, salad or sandwich. Each recipe entry must use at least one 12-ounce can from the SPAM® family of products (any variety). Last day/time to submit entry forms and recipes is Wednesday, June 17, 2009 at 5pm.

3. Recipes must not have been published and/or cannot have won prizes or awards in other contests and must not be restricted in any way. Submission of the recipes gives Dickerson & Quinn the right to modify, edit, adapt, publish and/or use the recipe in any way and in any and all media without limitation and without consideration or payment to the entrant.

4. Each participating contestant will be given a SPAM® T-shirt. Contestants are encouraged to wear the T-shirt during each competition.

5. Contestants must bring their dish for judging by 12:45pm on June 20, 2009. Any dishes brought in after 12:45pm will be disqualified. Judging will begin promptly at 1:15pm. Final heating, cooking and presentation preparation may be done at the contest site. Power outlets will be provided. Contestants must bring all required preparation materials such as warming plates, crock pots, etc. The individual who entered the contest must be present at the judging of their dish. Entries will be judged on the basis of taste, originality and overall presentation. The judges will will be chosen by Dickerson & Quinn.

6. A first, second and third place winner will be selected. The first place winner will receive $250 cash plus a year supply of SPAM® (1 case per month SPAM® 12/12). The second place winner will receive $100 cash plus a $50 SPAM® gift bag. The third place winner will receive $50 cash plus a $50 SPAM® gift bag.

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8. Interpretation of the contest rules shall be at the sole discretion of Dickerson & Quinn. Any decisions made shall be binding on all contestants. Judges decisions are final.

9. Contest is sponsored by Dickerson & Quinn.

10. Contest void where prohibited. All prizes will be awarded. Prizes are nonrefundable, nontransferable, and cannot be redeemed for cash. Winners must consent to the use of his/her likeness and/or photograph for advertising purposes without additional compensation. Taxes on prizes are the responsibility of the winner. All recipes become the property of Dickerson & Quinn and will not be returned. Dickerson & Quinn is not responsible for lost, late, misdirected or mutilated entries.

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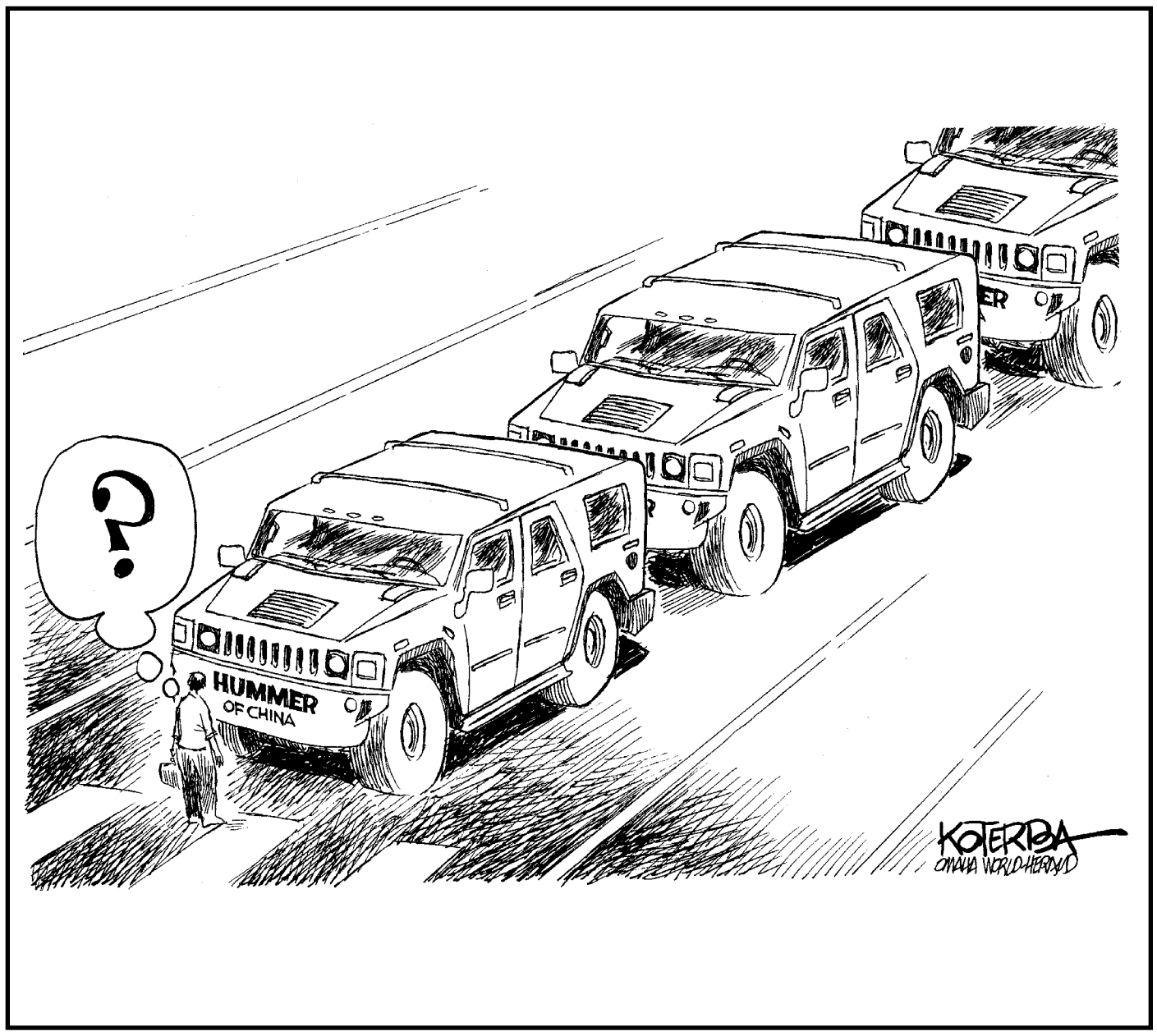


EDITORIAL

The Obama diet

Imagine going on a diet in which you figure out how many calories a day you eat and pledge to make up for any amount beyond that with vigorous exercise. Except that your regular consumption includes four gooey slices of chocolate cake daily—which you have no intention of giving up. You might not put on weight as quickly, but you're not likely to slim down, either. This is about what President Obama proposed this week with new legislation to codify congressional pay-as-you-go rules. "The `pay-as-you-go rule' is very simple," the president said. "Congress can only spend a dollar if it saves a dollar elsewhere."

Well, not exactly. First, as under existing House and Senate rules, what is known as the PAYGO law would not apply to discretionary spending programs, which account for about 40 percent of the federal budget; these programs, which Congress reviews and funds yearly, could continue to grow without corresponding cuts or new revenue. Only extra spending for mandatory programs (Medicare, Social Security and the like) and tax provisions would be covered. Second, Obama would write into the law four whopping exceptions to the pay-as-you-go rule: extending most of the Bush tax cuts, keeping the estate tax at its current level, preventing the alternative minimum tax from hitting more taxpayers and increasing Medicare payments to doctors. This adds up to a $2.8 trillion loophole over 10 years.

What to make of this move? Well, it's better than nothing, and if implemented it would improve on the record of Obama's predecessor, who—with plenty of Democratic encouragement—dug the entitlement hole even deeper with the creation of a Medicare prescription drug plan that was not paid for. By contrast, Obama vows that his health-care reform will have to be financed with spending cuts or tax increases. That is important under the current budgetary circumstances, and to the extent that pay-as-you-go legislation would make it more difficult for lawmakers to get around their self-imposed rules simply by voting to ignore them, all the better.

But the president's self-congratulatory back-patting about fiscal rectitude is more than a bit hard to take in light of the huge exceptions he would grant. Yes, the president inherited a budget in arrears, an economy in tatters and a tax system that is unsustainable as written. It was necessary to add to the deficit in the short term to jolt the economy back to life. The House has these four exemptions in its pay-as-you-go rule; even without the Obama exceptions, there was no reasonable hope that these costs would be paid for.

Yet Obama's professions of being willing to make hard choices are belied by his failure to adjust his spending plans to budgetary reality. Something will need to give—either raising significantly more revenue or dramatically scaling back government. He doesn't deserve much credit for a pay-as-you-go proposal that elides this reality instead of confronting it.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

We need a new national anthem

By MICHAEL KINSLEY
Special to The Washington Post

In the Age of Karaoke, more people (including me) like to join in the singing when they strike up the national anthem at public occasions. No one can stop you, no matter how embarrassed she might be by your obvious lack of talent. It's always disappointing when you're invited to stand and enjoy some high school glee club or famous opera singer. But chances are that even the opera singer won't get it right.

"The Star-Spangled Banner" is notoriously unsingable. A professor of music, Caldwell Titcomb of Brandeis, pointed out years ago in the New Republic that its melody spans nearly two octaves, when most people are good for one octave, max. The first eight lines are one enormous sentence with subordinate clauses, leaving no really good place to take a breath. There are far too many mandatory leaps off the high board ("... what so PROU-dly we hail ...").

The melody is lifted from an old English drinking song. The lyrics are all about bombs and war and bloodshed—and not in a good way. By the penultimate verse, the song has turned really nasty: "No refuge could save the hireling and slave / From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave." In the first verse—the one we generally sing—there is only one reference to any value commonly associated with America: "land of the free." By contrast, "home of the brave" is empty bravado. There is nothing in the American myth (let alone reality) to suggest that we are braver than anyone else.

No, "The Star-Spangled Banner" has got to go. The only question is, What should replace it? Here we have an embarrassment of riches. Let's review some of the candidates.

The unimaginative, easy choice would be "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," a.k.a. "America"—as if applying for the job, since the word "America" isn't even in it. Case for: The melody is simple, familiar and easy to sing, with a range of less than an octave. The lyrics express American sentiments, by and large, though with no particular flair. Case against: The tune is a rip-off of "God Save the Queen," and as insipid as the lyrics to boot.

"The Battle Hymn of the Republic" has a range of one octave exactly, and beautiful, inspiring lyrics. A bit martial, of course, but in reference to our nation's greatest cause rather than mindless nonsense about rockets and bombs. A bit religious, too, but probably not unconstitutionally so if "one nation, under God," passes muster in the Pledge of Allegiance. Written by Julia Ward Howe during the Civil War to supply something more wholesome for Union soldiers to sing to the tune of "John Brown's body lies a-moulderin' in the grave," it is already used sometimes at liberal occasions as a substitute for "The Star-Spangled Banner." Even at this late date some Southerners might object. But hey—who won the war?

The best of the conventional choices would be "America the Beautiful." Its range is an octave plus one note, with a couple of tricky leaps ("Uh-MARE-i-cah, America"). But the tune is lovely, and the lyrics are eloquent and almost eerily appropriate in their humility. ("Confirm thy soul in self-control / Thy liberty in law.")

What about Irving Berlin's "God Bless America"? The lyrics are more enthusiastic than eloquent. There is nothing so wonderful about our oceans being "white with foam." But it's a tuneful tune, not only easy to remember but hard to get out of your head. It might seem tough to argue that "God Bless America" is not a religious sentiment, potentially violating the establishment clause of the First Amendment. But the song is so jolly and un-hymn-like that I am confident some professors at our finer law schools could make the case. (You see? That tune just fills you with American optimism and energy.) As this column has pointed out, in our political culture the phrase "God bless America" has come to mean little more than "I'm through with my speech. See you later."

Woody Guthrie wrote "This Land Is Your Land" out of annoyance at the popularity of "God Bless America." The melody has a range of just seven notes, which is hard to beat. The lyrics can be treated as either a generalized appreciation of the American landscape or a more pointed political claim for equality ("This land was made for you and me"). There's no question which one Guthrie had in mind. He was a communist fellow-traveler. But the song has been absorbed into our culture and is loved even by Republicans who have no idea about its origins.

How about Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the USA"? A bit dark for a national anthem, I suppose. The Shaker hymn "Simple Gifts" (turned by Aaron Copland into a theme in "Appalachian Spring")? Anything would be better than those "bombs bursting in air."

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Wei, ni hao? Xie xie. Bu ku qi. Zai Jian.

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Hello, how are you? *Wei, ni hao?* Thank you. *Xie xie.* You're welcome. *Bu ku qi.* Goodbye. *Zai jian.*

Not literal translations but for those who travel, the four phrases are convenient to learn of one's host local language in order to get around. They also make one an accepted and welcomed fool when one mispronounces the words, as I did many times in the Middle Kingdom, *Zhong Guo*—China.

As all things must come to an end, the journey to Sinoland on the *Dong Bei* (Northeast) Manchuria side of the continent reached the allowed 30-day visa. Taking account of the experience, we dare a final commentary.

The delightful eloquence of Lin Yutang's 1935 *My China and My People* had been a warm companion in the journey across geography and the intricate regions of the mind, theirs and mine. Mine was not difficult to traverse. I know myself to be a bipolar personality, at once, inspired and inspiring, conceited and vain. Thus, the Sino-symbol of the *Yin-Yang* as a fundamental reality of nature, the eternal paradox of holding two opposing forces within the same entity, was not only enlightening but a great source of personal absolution.

Travelling on a retreat-mode, the disciplines of meditation and contemplation became self-revelatory in a profoundly spiritual sense (along the lines of the Chinese *qi* and Grecian *nous*). But allusions to things numinous and ephemeral are nothing but airy-fairy sentiments; we reflect on China at street level.

Historical buffs will remember the incident of the Qingming Festival of April '76 when Zhou Enlai's official mass mourning was curtailed by the Gang of Four. Students unleashed criticism against the usurpers of the ailing Mao Zedong's rule led of spouse Jiang Qing. Non-doctrinaire Deng Xiaoping was placed under house arrest after being denounced during the Cultural Revolution, and seeing a son crippled when pushed out of a four-storey building. Deng re-emerged after Mao's death and maneuvered Mao's successor Hua Guofeng out of the real power behind the CCP at *Zhongnanhai* in Beijing.

In Sun Tzu's *Art of War,* one never annihilates one's enemy, rather, one attains a balance of power so that opposing forces are balanced. Harmony is not at the elimination of diverse identities; harmony is being "One out of the Many."

Deng was *Yin-Yang* and harmony-imbued at core. Hua Guofeng was segued to a deputy position so that he could retire in his old age without the loss of face. Deng pursued the four modernization initiated by his colleague Zhou Enlai in agriculture, industry, technology, and defense, shifting the social process focus from political class struggle to economic harmony (communism with a Chinese face), getting the country modernized by the start of the 21st century.

Modernization of industry, technology and defense littered my travel accounts. The iPods and iPhones, possible Humvee in Sichuan and Aerospace in Shanghai, Lenovo laptops and windmills on hilltops, Gucci and Armani in every city commercial center, electronic surveillance and China in space, are examples of how far Deng's efforts reached the frontiers of the new age.

The short-stalked wheat fields in the north and the labor-intensive rice paddies of the south, with the maize fields everywhere, have made China food sufficient. Commerce is China's genius. Japan's Mikimoto cultured pearls in saltwater Akoya oysters. Now, freshwater pearls from China are five times more productive and have since flooded the world market, edging out its predecessor.

The politics of local determination is alive and well. A *hutong* being demolished south of Tiananmen mid-May had students occupy the top of one of the buildings in protest, slowing traffic but keeping a circus atmosphere of waving flags and draped banners, and media scampering for footage of the event.

More significantly, a rural village that did not wait for Beijing to deliver its promise to build a highway went ahead and built its own, utilizing local resources—materials, labor and funds. Self-help initiatives after the Sichuan tremors are widespread, well documented, and widely heralded. Bureaucratic inefficiency, and deceit, had not been tolerated and are actively opposed and exposed.

It is, however, in the housing development that economics and politics came to a balanced *yin-yang*. People now own their state-financed apartments. The new middle class is digging deep into its reserves, its enormous purchasing power, including a recent guaranteed credit line five times its actual annual income.

The cultural arena is where more finesse is called for. Motorized China need drivers who know how to use the brakes rather than just the agility to swerve, who know the function of double lines before concrete dividers start sprouting out of the middle of the boulevards.

Clearing one's throat is a discipline best exercised in the morning at home and not on the side street. When a litter of lemon tea is twice as expensive as a bottle of beer, the preference is clear. When every state owns a tobacco company, we might suggest that there are better ways to implement population control other than shorter life spans. If it is going to invite the world, not all can Asian squat!

The head queue was a symbol of the Tai Ping rebellion, but a public queue is a tool of order and efficiency. Why people would rush to be in their train berths when all seats are assigned is beyond me. Four to five lines that bottleneck one entrance is a natural catastrophe. What looked like Yao Ming's brother bullied his way to the front of a bus line in Dalian and when I had the temerity to signal the presence of a queue, I got a mean elbow in response!

China needs to reappropriate the symbols of the *yin-yang* and the *bagua* (eight diagrams). Heretofore, the themes of paradoxical balance and harmony of the many has been a fundamental strength of the Chinese culture. When members of the new generation become avid consumers of fast food services with its accompanying rush, haste and impatience, the reflected life is lost, the meditative capacity to be human diminished, and the China of the Silk Road is replaced by the melamine-laced milk of Sanlu.

Still, in a decade, the largest English speaking population in the world will be China—and boy, oh, boy, what that will do to the language! For now, I *kowtow* with reverence to the terminated journey, and from me, deep gratitude to those who made it happen. *Xie Xie! Si Yu'us Maasi. Zai Jian!*

Triste na pañgpañg Uchan

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I pañgpañg uchan gi bintanahu dispasiu pinidoñgña esta na triste. Hana chatsagayu, ti hu komprende, lao buente pot enteru i tano homhum. Ni atdao ti sinede umeñgulu.

Manfugu i paluma yan manog siha gi hilo troñku. Manfotgun papan niha ayo na mañgetu gi fina fanliheñg gi oriya. I hagun chaguan yan troñku solu manbabaila. I kinalamten taotao mas dispasiu ke `an bonito i haane.

Guiya este na tiempo `nai matto bakasion eskuela. Hu hasso matatachoñg namaisa gi sigiente dia sige hu konsidedera hafa mauleg para bai` chogue. Manmatago ham yan mañeluhu para bai`n fan malag i lancho. Kulan ham higante

na duendes `nai in tampe ilon mame ni kostat gañgoche `sino hagon sunen bisaya.

In` tetne guafe gi fegun i lanchu kulan mohon guaha para bai`n nalago. Dispues inna fañochu i gaga siha antes de bai`n fan manrepasa gi entalo luchan tinanom. `An mas bibu i ichan yan mañglo, man-nahgoñg ham gi lancho pot no bai`n fan sinagu. Gi lemlim taotoa, in` bira ham tatte gi gima yan kostat hinale` sune, mendioka, kamute `sino hineñgo choda.

Gi entalo luchan sune yan mendioka, sesso in` hiñgog burukan ruplanon militat gi biradaña para Guam. Guaha `nai mansuette estudianteta guihe na sasyan ya mana` fan maudai. I pumalo manmaudai gi batko pot para u kontinua lokue estudion niha.

Gi duranten bakasion, guaha na finagchae` tiempon didog na somnag pat uchan. Yangin i tatatte in` fagchae`, pues kada mantto ham gi puntan luchan tinanom, añgoghu na mediu esta dinañgkuloña i chaguan gi santatte. Lao in` siñgon sa ennao naturatña chechu fangualuan.

`An mes Agostu gi hinalom sagon guihan, in` usune man-mandalag haye gai teking pat chenchulu pot para u guaha totchen familia. Dañgkulo na sensian komunida guihe siha na tiempo. Todo malisto gi bandan ayudu piot `nai matto gi nesesidat namase` na prohimumu. Namagof i metgot na sensian komunida antes.

Guaha tinilaika gi este na kustumbren natibu ni matutuhon `nai sige manhuyoñg taotaota ginen i hagas soñgsoñg Chalan Kanoa yan Susupe. Lao namagof sa` maseha guaha siha nuebo na komunida, i sensian ayudu sumaga fitme yan satton gi entalo` familia siha. Esta pago este na kustumbre motmut gineftao ginen korason taotaota.

Yangin tiempon chataan, pues siempre ha dalalakeyu i pañgpañg uchan esta`i kamahu. Yayasyu ya mange` masede i ichan gi hilo atuf kumonduse silensiu hinasoghu estake maigoyu. Un` hala sabanasmu, imachigu hao, ya un` tatiye i kanta ginen hilu guma. I finaton uchan señat tinilaika gi kliman tano`ta `nai ha rega todos gi papa` mapagahes paraisu. Buente i hemhom mapagahes yan kantan chataan muna` triste sinienteghu. Si Yuus Maase`!

Letters to the Editor

Apology to the VAR leadership

This is to publicly apologize to the leadership of the Veterans Association of Rota for my stern remarks in my previous letter to the editor; however, I hope I have gotten your attention so that perhaps the VAR membership could rally and take back what was given to all the veterans by former Congressman Tony Quitugua and was belittled by the despotic mentality of the Rota legislative delegation. Their action not only disrespects Congressman Quitugua's recognition of our veteran's contributions but, in essence, took away our home, leaving us homeless. Imagine that! Congressman Quitugua's noble legacy should not have been belittled so callously. The VAR is an active member of the community and should have been accorded the opportunity to voice their concern. Thanks to the Lord, my son had just returned safely from Iraq. I have numerous family members, relatives and friends who are still in harm's way. I will continue to pray for their safety as well and hope that upon their return, their sacrifices for our country will have meaning.

I am certain that while every veteran and active service member agrees that honoring our fallen comrade for the ultimate sacrifice is the right thing to do, we wonder, though, if taking away the Veterans Memorial the only alternative available? Senator Hocog, are we not as deserving as well for our sacrifice? Is it our fault that we survived the battle? God forbid, but whose memorial are you going to rename should fate take another son/daughter from Rota? What is more ironic is that this travesty of justice happened under the watch of the Senate Vice President, a veteran and an officer himself. You sir, abandoned your troops, who were instrumental in your election to the Senate, and, I'm glad it's not in battle. Without courtesy to the VAR, the Governor signed the bill into law and the deed is done. Such is the power of the pen.

One of the tests of leadership is to recognize the problem before it becomes an emergency. We are beyond this point. So what now, VAR? Have our leaders surrendered? There are over 200 active duty and veterans from Rota by now and the number will continue to rise in view of the dismal economy and lack of opportunities on Rota. The power of the pen is awesome. Two hundred members and their family translate into a huge number of signatures. If the delegation has no respect for the VAR, let's use the power of the pen to undo the injustice done to us. Saipan and Tinian veterans, take notice of our plight and make sure your leaders recognize that your sacrifices are not in vain. VAR officers, anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm, this is your moment in the sun. Your action will determine the destiny of our organization. It's an election year and a good number of our citizens are asking for the privilege to lead us. Let's see who will champion our cause. Let us be mindful though, and must assure, that we incorporate and recommend a substitute site to complement the legacy of our hero, Joe Jr. in our effort. His memory as a police officer would enliven his life's journey with the perception of performing his duty as he protects the community while at home, as opposed to returning home in a box. It would be more fitting to name the Rota police station Cpl Joe Jr. Police Station.

Andy M. Ramos
Dededo, Guam

Voters are to blame

Voters are to be blame for the labor problems because they voted for officials who amended the existing laws. Blaming Cinta is a blame game that has to stop because her hands are tied. All the officials who make those labor laws—some are still in office today—made the law into what it is today so voters should blame themselves, not Cinta.

Joaquin Romolor
Portland, Oregon

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°

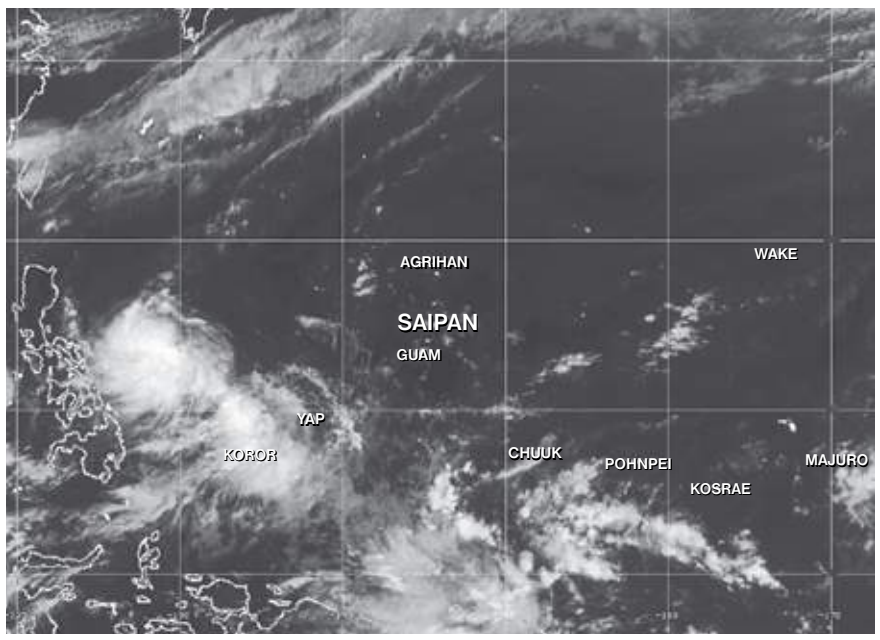
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Rain	▲86	▼76
Palau	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲80	▼76
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲83	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲58	▼46
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲91	▼70
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼75
London	Rain	▲64	▼54
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼58
Manila	Rain	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼49
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼77
New York	Cloudy	▲76	▼62
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲75	▼65
Paris	Rain	▲75	▼52
Pusan	Cloudy	▲73	▼59
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼65
Salem	Cloudy	▲74	▼50
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲69	▼54
Seoul	Showers	▲78	▼59
Tokyo	Showers	▲77	▼67
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲83	▼65

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from a circulation centered northwest of Koror near 11N131E to EQ155E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms can be found across Palau and Yap between 14N and 5N from 130E to 140E. Further southeast scattered showers are located within 100 miles of a line from 2N144E to 2N153E. A surface trough extends southward from Chuuk to 1N156E. Scattered showers can be found near the trough axis within 90 miles of a line from 10N150E to 4N152E. A surface trough east of the Marshall Islands extends southward from near 10N176E to EQ175E. Scattered showers ahead of the trough are affecting parts of the Marshall Islands within 150 miles of a line from 5N170E to 4N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:01 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:26 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
11:58 AM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
6:37 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Tuesday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today		11:36 AM
Tuesday	12:01 AM	12:24 PM
Wednesday	12:37 AM	1:14 PM
Thursday	1:16 AM	2:18 PM
Friday	1:58 AM	3:05 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Two CNMI students receive national honor

ATLANTA, GA—Louis Manglona Hocog of Rota and Tanya Ciara M. Dela Cruz of Saipan have been selected to the National Society of High School Scholars. The society recognizes top scholars and invites only those students who have achieved superior academic excellence.

Hocog is the son of Vera Lynn Manglona of Rota who is now residing in Copperas Cove, Texas. Louis is a sophomore at Lampasas High School, Texas.

Dela Cruz is the daughter of Manases and Violeta Dela Cruz. She just graduated from Kagman High School on June 9.

Dela Cruz

Both announcements were made by NSHSS founder and chair Claes Nobel, a senior member of the family that established the Nobel prizes.

"On behalf of NSHSS, I am honored to recognize the hard work, sacrifice, and commitment that Louis M. Hocog has demonstrated to achieve this exceptional level of academic excellence," said Nobel.

Of Dela Cruz, he said, "Tanya Ciara M. Dela Cruz is now a member of a unique community of scholars—a community that represents our very best hope for the future."

Dela Cruz was the senior class president from 2008 to 2009, is a Teen Talk member since sophomore year, a member of the National Honor Society at Kagman High since 2006, and was actively involved in the mock trial, International Thespian Society, and the graduation, yearbook, and prom committees at Kagman High.

Membership in NSHSS entitles qualified students to enjoy a wide variety of benefits, including scholarship opportunities, academic competitions, free events, member-only resources, publications, participation in programs offered by educational partners, online forums, personalized recognition items, and publicity honors.

Formed in 2002, the National Society of High School scholars recognizes academic excellence at the high school level and encourages members of the organization to apply their unique talents, vision, and potential for the betterment of themselves and the world. Currently, there are more than 300,000 Society members in over 120 countries. NSHSS provides scholarship opportunities for deserving young people. For more information about NSHSS, visit www.nshss.org. ***(PR)***

Loerzel takes top Micronesia Challenge post

Adrienne Loerzel, a political and environmental veteran with more than 10 years experience as a journalist and adviser to Guam Gov. Felix Camacho, has been selected as the Micronesia Challenge communications specialist, the Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee announced this week.

"Ms. Loerzel has worked on numerous Micronesia Challenge projects in collaboration with the Guam Coastal Zone Management Program, and is quite familiar with the goals and mission of this ambitious regional project," said Marion Henry, Assistant Secretary with the FSM Department of Resources and Development and chairman of the Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee. "Her background provides her with a unique perspective on the challenge and the needs of the regional partners who will be working on this program. I have no doubt she will prove to be a tremendous asset in moving the Micronesian Challenge forward."

Loerzel currently serves as the main environmental policy advisor for Camacho and has worked on a number of issues pertaining to the Micronesia Challenge, including coral reef conservation, water quality, and invasive species management. In 2001 she served as the primary bill writer and research assistant for then-Senator Camacho.

"As a lifelong resident of Guam, I have always been passionately interested in the preservation of natural resources both on my home island and in our unique part of the world," said Loerzel. "I have had the privilege of traveling throughout the region and have a great appreciation for the natural environment that is such a fundamental part of the island lifestyle."

The Micronesia Challenge is a commitment by the Chief Executives of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands to effectively conserve at least 30 percent of the near-shore marine resources and 20 percent of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020. ***(PR)***

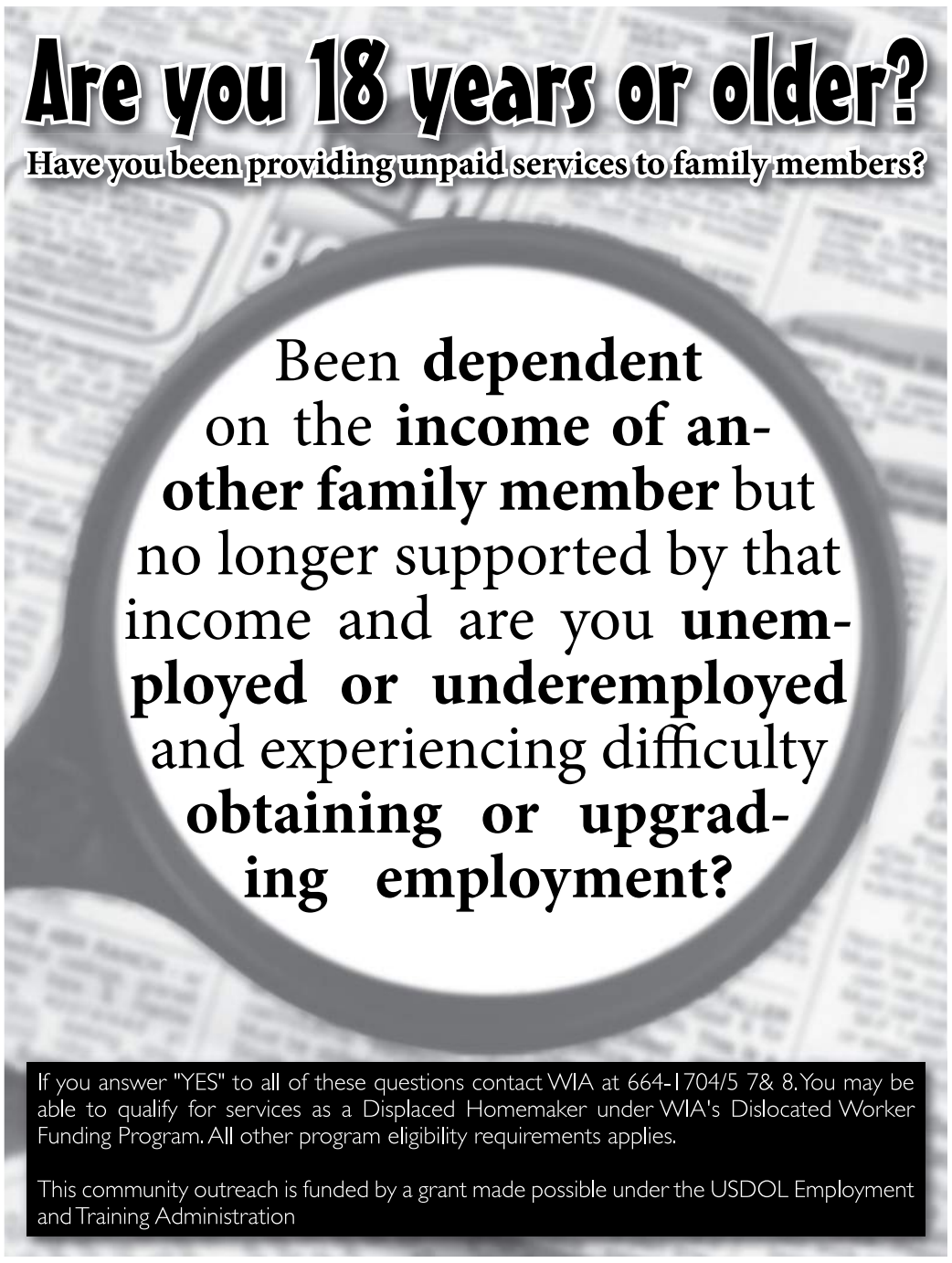
Live fire releases on Farallon set

The U.S. military will be conducting an aerial survey and live fire releases on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla this month, according to the Emergency Management Office. The aerial survey will be from 8am-1pm on June 13, while the live fire releases will take place from June 14 to June 18, from 4am to 2pm, and June 18 to June 21, from 8am to 1pm. Another round of live fire releases will be from June 20 to June 21, from 1pm to 7pm.

All activities will take place on the Farallon de Mendenilla training area (R7201) on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is strongly advising the public—particularly fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the times and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at 322-9528 and 322-9529 and VHF MARINE CHNL 16, HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0; or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. ***(PR)***


Are you 18 years or older?
Have you been providing unpaid services to family members?
Been dependent on the income of another family member but no longer supported by that income and are you unemployed or underemployed and experiencing difficulty obtaining or upgrading employment?
If you answer "YES" to all of these questions contact WIA at 664-1704/5 7& 8. You may be able to qualify for services as a Displaced Homemaker under WIA's Dislocated Worker Funding Program. All other program eligibility requirements applies.
This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB09-GOV-095

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the Rapogao and Sablan Quarry Well Fields Isolation and Water System Improvement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The bidder is required to submit with his proposal a copy of his CNMI Business License in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Approximately 8,900 linear feet of distribution and transmission lines and appurtenances.
- One new 0.40 MG glass fused to steel water storage tank, with site work including access road and retaining wall
- New Chlorination System building
- Reconnection of numerous existing water service connections
- Two new pressure reducing stations
- Additive Bids for Maui IV booster station rehabilitation and the Flame Tree water line replacement

A non-refundable payment of $300 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **June 8, 2009** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00** a.m., on **June 23, 2009**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be scheduled at the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on **June 22, 2009**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations as out in the NMI Administrative Code Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is available to local bidders per Public Law 5-95 and 5-118.

Sealed bids must be marked **"IFB09-GOV-095".** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 pm local time **July 8, 2009**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 3:00 pm local time **July 8, 2009**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 8, 2009**, and must be received no later than **July 17, 2009**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **July 20, 2009**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **July 9, 2009**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Benigno R. Fitial
Governor and Contracting Officer

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

Swine flu pandemic impacts May tourist arrivals

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority reported a significant drop of 23 percent in tourist arrivals last month, largely due to the swine flu pandemic.

Records from the agency showed that visitors arrivals to the CNMI in May totaled just 24,128, compared to the 31,203 posted in the same period in 2008. This means a drop of nearly a quarter of previous figures.

While the CNMI had more air seats available in May than a year ago from its major markets of Japan and China, the downturn is largely caused by the impact of H1N1 virus on outbound travel around the world, MVA said.

Japan, the CNMI's major tourism market, was among the countries with confirmed victims of the virus. MVA earlier said a large number of flight cancellations were from the Japan market.

Overall, MVA said, the fiscal year total to date is 5.04 percent fewer visitors than in 2008.

"The Northern Marianas suffers the effects of less travel worldwide, precipitated by the impact of the H1N1 flu virus which has reduced travel from Japan, Korea, and China to all overseas destinations, including the CNMI," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio.

This is in addition to the worldwide economic crisis that continues to dampen arrivals from some markets, he added.

MVA said Japan arrivals dropped for the second month in a row, losing 22 percent last month with just 12,833 visitors. While the buying power of the Japanese yen against the U.S. dollar has improved compared to a year ago—up 8 percent—the country's deep recession continues.

Arrivals from the primary source market of Korea also plummeted by one third, losing 34 percent in May 2009 and registering 6,557 visitors.

MVA said the Korean Travel Organization reports the number of total outbound travelers from Korea to all destinations from January to March was down 34 percent compared to the same period last year. According to the travel industry, there have been 15 to 30 percent cancellations to U.S. destinations since the end of April amid growing fear of the spread of H1N1.

Visitors arrivals also dropped in the following markets: -1 percent from China or a total of 1,587 arrivals in May; -85 percent to only 5 visitors from Taiwan; and -13 percent or 1,547 arrivals from Guam.

Arrivals from Russia saw a slight increase, though, with 489 visitors last month, or a 39-percent increase; 288 visitors from the Philippines or a 9-percent increase; and other areas grew 14 percent to 311 last month.

MVA also announced that Asiana Airlines Busan has announced flight increases to the CNMI during the high demand summer season.

The airline will resume operation of two additional flights from Busan to the CNMI per week on Wednesday and Saturday from July 15 to Aug. 26.

Big crowd shows up at annual Pistang Pinoy

A good number of people joined the annual "Pistang Pinoy" (Filipino Fiesta) organized by the United Filipino Organization at the Civic Center in Susupe as part of the commemoration of the 111th anniversary of Philippine Independence Day.

In his remarks, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the CNMI affirms its friendship with the Filipino people on this occasion.

"We congratulate and commend the people of the Philippines for securing political independence. We join you in your festive celebrations," Inos said.

Inos briefly narrated the history of how the Philippines began celebrating June 12 as the "real Independence Day" for the people of the Philippines.

Outgoing Philippine Consul General Wilfredo Maximo delivered welcome remarks, while Saipan Mayor's Office's information officer Tony Benavente read Mayor Juan B. Tudela's inspirational message.

The whole-day affair feature sixteen booths selling food and other items. Some booths of Filipino organizations also offered free food and drinks to members and friends.

The program started at 11am. The closing of the event was set for 5pm.

Various Filipino bands, singers, and dance groups livened up the event. Children also had fun as parlor games were prepared for them. There was also a poster making and drawing contest for children, with lots of prizes and giveaways.

Although the number of Filipino workers in the CNMI has significantly gone down in the past few years due to the bad economy, yesterday's event still attracted a big crowd.

UFO president Olive Yana told *Saipan Tribune* she is very happy with the turnout as well as the support of the leaders of all Filipino organizations. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Marc Christian dela Torre, 9, tries his luck on a spin-a-wheel at the Western Union booth at yesterday's Pistang Pinoy in Susupe, highlighting the celebration of the 111th anniversary of Philippine Independence. The Philippines declared its independence from Spanish colonial rule on June 12, 1898.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Pong Tomokane, who is celebrating his birthday today, June 15, 2009. Greetings come from your wife, children, and your Boise and Saipan families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Jayvehn Phillip Atalig Fejeran, who is celebrating his 7th birthday today, June 15, 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-BOP-108

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 01, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A TERMINAL SERVER FOR THE BOARD OF PAROLE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **JOSEPH T. GUERRERO**
CHIEF OF PAROLE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-OPM-099

SUBMISSION: JUNE 29, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR AN ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND EXCEPTED SERVICE EMPLOYEES FOR THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS..

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR **10:00 A.M., JUNE 17, 2009** AT THE OFFICE OF THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, CONFERENCE ROOM. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO **DR. PETER C. ECHE, TRAINING DIRECTOR**, **echewpc@pticom.com** NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **JUNE 19, 2009**.

/s/ **ISIDRO K. SEMAN**
ACTING OPM DIRECTOR

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND
1980 *"Investing For The Future Financial Security of our Members"*

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICER
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO. RF09-060

OPENING DATE: **JUNE 2, 2009** CLOSING DATE: **JULY 2, 2009**

INTERESTED PARTIES MAY REQUEST THE RFP PACKET BY E-MAIL, FACSIMILE, OR POSTAL MAIL FROM:

ADMINISTRATOR
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND
PO BOX 501247, SAIPAN, MP 96950 • FAX: 670/664-8080
E-MAIL: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

Preference is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN, TINIAN AND ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS
PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF PAINT SUPPLIES
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-002-09

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the Procurement and Delivery of Paint Supplies to the Saipan, Tinian and Rota International Airports.

The scope of work entails the purchase and delivery of brand new paint supplies to each airport. The detailed scope of work and breakdown of paint purchases will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, June 12, 2009. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all shipping charges and taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Procurement and Delivery of Paint Supplies to the Saipan, Tinian and Rota International Airports". One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: June 11, 2009

COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
P.O. Box 500470 Saipan. MP 96950-0470
Tel: (670) 664.VOTE / Fax: (670) 664-8689
http://www.votecnmi.gov.mp/

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (a) and (b), the Commonwealth Election Commission, hereby give notice that the Commonwealth Election Commission will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 17, 2009, at the Council for Developmental Disabilities' Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Additional information concerning this meeting is available at the Office of the Election Commission, 1313 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan,

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
- a. Roll call
- b. Adoption of agenda
- c. Adoption of minutes
  1. Minutes of August 22, 2008 Meeting
  2. Minutes of October 25, 2008 Meeting
  3. Minutes of November 5, 2008 Meeting
  4. Minutes of November 18, 2008 Meeting
  5. Minutes of February 12,2009 Meeting
  6. Minutes of April 16, 2009 Meeting

II. Executive Director's Report
III. New Business
- a. Affidavit of Registration No. 1999-0440 (re: MAM)
- b. Affidavit of Registration No, 1997.2058 (re: JF)
- c. Affidavit of Registration No. 2005-0302 (re: NRC)
- d. Affidavit of Registration No. 1996.0001 (re: FTP)
- e. Affidavit of Registration No. 2005-1745 (re: KSF)
- f. Affidavit of Registration No, 2008.0486 (re: LFC)
- g. Affidavit of Registration No. 2009.0153 (re: HSS)
- h. Affidavit of Registration No, 2000-0326 (re: EOR)
- i. Affidavit of Registration (re: DAC)

IV. Miscellaneous
V. Adjournment

/s/ **FRANCES M, SABLAN**
Chairwoman

(The Commission, pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, may vote to meet in executive session to consult legal counsel and discuss personnel matters.)

Business

As theft rises, stores step up anti-crime efforts

AP

In this March 24, 2009 photo, Brooke Zupnick of Gahanna, Ohio, unloads her grocery cart near the LaneHawk loss prevention device at Kroger store in Gahanna, Ohio.

CINCINNATI (AP)—With shoplifting on the rise—including organized teams sweeping through stores and lifting scores of items in minutes—retailers are beefing up plainclothes patrols and video surveillance, and competitors are working together to prevent crime.

Stores are running online stings and sending security guards onto sales floors posing as customers. The FBI helped create a database for trading notes on suspects and their methods. Minneapolis-based Target Corp. even has a forensic lab and tracks video feed from its 1,700 stores at regional hubs.

"In light of today's economy and the expense pressure, it is an investment that shows good return," said Brad Brekke, a former FBI special agent who heads assets protection for Target. "There is definitely economic pressure generating more activity across the board—fraud, theft, cyber crime. The intensity has gone up as the economy has gone down."

The National Retail Federation, a trade group, says nearly half of 115 retailers it surveyed are spending more on crime-fighting—some companies spend more than $1 million a year just on personnel hired to stop crime rings. The NRF, which opens a loss prevention conference Monday in Los Angeles, says 92 percent of the surveyed retailers were victims of organized theft teams last year, an 8 percent increase, even as many saw slumping sales.

More individuals are shoplifting, as in several steak-stealing incidents in Kroger Co. grocery stores across the country this year. But retailers say the vast majority of their losses are from thefts by organized rings that usually send in a small group including a getaway driver, an in-store lookout and several "shoppers."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

800,000 callers phone digital TV hot line

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nearly 800,000 calls were received by a federal hot line this week from people confused about the nationwide move on Friday to drop analog TV signals and broadcast only in digital. The Federal Communications Commission said that about 317,450 calls went into the help line, 1-888-CALL-FCC, on Friday alone, the day analog signals were cut off. Another 102,000 came in Saturday by 6 p.m. Eastern time. The total is still below the 600,000 to 3 million callers that the FCC expected in early March would call on transition day. The move to all-digital was delayed from Feb. 17. Nielsen Co. put the number of unready homes at 2.8 million, or 2.5 percent of the total television market, as of last Sunday.

G-8 nations get ready for economic recovery

LECCE, Italy (AP)—The Group of Eight industrialized nations began looking ahead to economic recovery on Saturday, as they considered how to unwind their massive stimulus policies while also warning it was too early to celebrate the end of the global crisis. Acknowledging "signs of stabilization in our economies," G-8 finance ministers tasked the International Monetary Fund with studying how best to roll back measures introduced to help the global economy once the crisis could be considered over. But the ministers said it was still too early to shift strategies, as many economies were still stabilizing from the financial and economic turmoil, whose full impact was yet to be felt in some corners of the world.

NC Slim Jim factory blast caused by gas leak

GARNER, N.C. (AP)—An explosion that killed three workers at a North Carolina Slim Jim plant was caused by a natural gas leak that ignited in a room housing vacuum pumps for sealing the snacks, authorities said Saturday. It will now be up to state and federal workplace investigators to determine how the leak happened and what caused it to ignite in Tuesday's blast at the ConAgra Foods Inc. plant in Garner, said Earl Woodham, an agent with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Fireams and Explosives. ATF agents believe the gas was sparked by a piece of equipment such as a fan motor or thermostat, but Woodham said another cause, like static electricity, couldn't be ruled out. Such electrical equipment would be capable of catching natural gas on fire even if it were operating normally, he said.

Baxter in 'full production' of swine flu vaccine

DEERFIELD, Ill. (AP)—Specialty drug maker Baxter International Inc. says it's in "full scale" production of a swine flu vaccine that will be commercially available in July. The company based in Deerfield, Ill., made its announcement Friday, a day after the World Health Organization declared swine flu a global pandemic. Baxter has said that its patented technology cuts in half the usual time it takes to develop a vaccine—to about 13 weeks instead of 26. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports 45 swine flu deaths nationwide.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Health
Division of Public Health
Caller Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: 670.664.4067 FAX: 670.664.4069

WIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is pleased to announce that we are now accepting applications for Saipan, Tinian and Rota Vendors and Farmers. All interested Vendors and Farmers can pick up an application at the main office located at the upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, starting June 15, 2009 through July 17, 2009 (Mon. to Fri.), or download an application online by visiting our website at www.cnmiwic.org.

All applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program office no later than 4:00 p.m., July 17, 2009.

The Vendor and Farmer selection criteria are attached to the applications and can also be viewed online at www.cnmiwic.org. Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4071, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez
Secretary of the
Department of Public Health

Josephine K. Tudela
CNMI WIC Program, Director

MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

There will be a Special Meeting of the newly formed Commonwealth Retirement Association on Tuesday, June 16, 2009, at 6 p.m. in the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center in Susupe. The Association is made up of all working and retired members of the original Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Program, now referred to as the Defined Benifit Plan (DBP). Election of Board of Directors will take place. For additional information, please call 234-6858 or 322-4785

Nation

Int'l child abductions by parents rising

SAMANTHA HENRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP)—It was a globe-trotting romance: a handsome American working as a model in Italy falls in love with a Brazilian beauty studying fashion design in Milan. They marry in 1999, settle in an upscale New Jersey shore town and have a son.

Four years later, the couple's relationship begins to change from an international love affair into a diplomatic nightmare.

The woman, Bruna Bianchi, took the couple's son to visit her relatives in Brazil in 2004 but never returned. The boy's father, David Goldman, who still lives in New Jersey, has been battling to get his son back ever since.

While the Goldman case has been prominent in recent news coverage, it is not the only dramatic custody case being fought across international borders. The U.S. State Department says such parental abductions involving American children are rising. There were more than 1,000 new cases of American children taken by a parent to another country last year—a 35 percent increase over 2007, according to the department.

The international tug-of-wars get even more difficult to resolve when nations disagree on which parent should keep a child.

"It's not just a U.S. trend, it's a worldwide trend," said Julie Furuta-Toy, director of the Office of Children's Issues at the U.S. Department of State.

AP
In a June 10, 2009, file photo, U.S. citizen David Goldman is seen during a hearing at Brazil's Supreme Court in Brasilia.

"In the long term, it is the children who suffer," she said.

The State Department has been looking into what may account for "a sharp increase" in abduction cases involving American children, Furuta-Toy said.

The unstable U.S. economy may be one factor, she said. It has led to layoffs of foreign-born workers, which might prompt a parent to return to his or her home country and take a child with them. Other possible reasons are the increase in binational marriages and more awareness of parental child abductions, Furuta-Toy said.

Charles Abut, a family law specialist in New Jersey, said he has seen the number of international custody disputes rise in tandem with globalization and intercultural marriage during the past decade.

"We're living in a much more global world, the distances aren't as great, and we have many instances of people traveling to different countries," Abut said. "When you couple international travel with a divorce, it's absolutely the case that these—and let's call them abductions—happen more often."

Cases where a parent takes an abducted child to a foreign country can be difficult and costly to litigate, involve numerous legal systems and sometimes drag on for years, leaving children in limbo.

Even cases governed by the Hague Convention on International Abductions, a treaty that addresses how to handle children taken across international borders without a parent's consent, are not always resolved quickly. That includes the Goldman case, which has dragged on for five years, even though both Brazil and the U.S. are signatories to the treaty.

Obama pledges to quickly sign anti-smoking bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama is lauding the passage of historic anti-smoking legislation that gives the government sweeping authority to regulate tobacco products, pledging to quickly sign the measure into law.

"For over a decade, leaders of both parties have fought to prevent tobacco companies from marketing their products to children and provide the public with the information they need to understand what a dangerous habit this is," said Obama, who has struggled for years to kick his own nicotine habit.

The House on Friday gave final approval to the bill after a bitter fight lasting nearly a half-century. The measure for the first time will give the Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate what goes into tobacco products, demand changes or elimination of toxic substances and block the introduction of new products.

Lawmakers and the White House quickly declared it would save the lives of thousands of smokers of all ages. Even more important, they said, the measure could keep countless young people from starting in the first place.

The thousand health and consumer groups that endorsed the bill say that, combined with other anti-smoking efforts, it can significantly reduce the 400,000 deaths and $100 billion in health care costs attributed every year to smoking in the U.S.

Japan's royal couple unveil Hawaii plans

HONOLULU (AP)—Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko are not scheduled to visit Pearl Harbor during next month's trip to Hawaii, but they will participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, the Japanese government said.

The royal couple will stop in Hawaii from July 14 to July 16 as they head home from an 11-day tour of Canada, according to the official itinerary released Friday. It will be their first visit to Hawaii since 1994.

The cemetery at Punchbowl Crater on Oahu is the burial place for 34,000 veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

The main public event by the 75-year-old Akihito and 74-year-old Michiko will be a banquet in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation at the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

The scholarship foundation was established as a wedding gift to the couple by residents of Hawaii in 1959. Each year, two students from the University of Hawaii are given scholarships to study in Japan, and two Japanese students are granted scholarships to study in Hawaii.

The Three Bears? Try 163,000...and counting

HARLAN, Ky. (AP)—Bobby Koger was deer hunting on a Kentucky hillside when a black bear gave him the fright of his life.

A 300-pound animal, apparently unhappy that an intruder was on his turf, came charging and didn't stop until Koger raised his .50 caliber muzzle-loading rifle and fired from point-blank range. A hunting companion who witnessed the attack from a distance also shot the bruin, which wheeled, ran a short distance and collapsed.

Conservation officers concluded that they fired in self-defense at a bear that had lost its natural fear of humans.

With black bear populations rising, run-ins have become almost commonplace - more than 15,000 in the past year in states east of the Mississippi River according to a survey of state wildlife agencies.

Canadian bear researcher Hank Hristienko, who conducted the survey in January, found that 18 Eastern states were seeing more encounters with bears.

Most encounters involve hungry bears raiding backyard bird feeders or toppling garbage bins, but sometimes they're harrowing. In a 2006 attack, a 210-pound male bear killed a 6-year-old girl and mauled her 2-year-old brother as well as her mother who tried to fend off the animal. The attack occurred during a family outing in Tennessee's Cherokee National Forest.

Some bears have become brazen, dining beneath backyard fruit trees, raiding pet food bowls, even chasing campers.

AP
An undated handout photo released by the Kentucky Department of Parks shows a bear climbing on a pickup truck at Kingdom Come State Park near Cumberland, Ky.

ACROSS THE NATION

Hiker falls to his death from Yosemite's Half Dome

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, California (AP)—A male hiker fell to his death while climbing Yosemite's famed Half Dome, park rangers said. The man fell from the granite monolith Saturday afternoon, said Yosemite National Ranger Scott Gediman. Gediman said there are indications the hiker was using the cable handrails that help climbers make the 17-mile (27-kilometer) round-trip, which begins in the Yosemite Valley and ascends nearly 5,000 feet (1,500 meters). The weather on Saturday made for dangerous conditions, and some 30 other Half Dome climbers were being escorted down by rangers on Saturday evening.

Drug suspect turns tables on NYPD with videotape

NEW YORK (AP)—When undercover detectives busted Jose and Maximo Colon last year for selling cocaine at a seedy club in Queens, there was a glaring problem: The brothers hadn't done anything wrong. But proclaiming innocence wasn't going to be good enough. The Dominican immigrants needed proof. "I sat in the jail and thought ... how could I prove this? What could I do?" Jose, 24, recalled in Spanish during a recent interview. As he glanced around a holding cell, the answer came to him: Security cameras. Since then, a vindicating video from the club's cameras has spared the brothers a possible prison term, resulted in two officers' arrest and become the basis for a multimillion-dollar lawsuit. The officers, who are due back in court June 26, have pleaded not guilty, and New York Police Department officials have downplayed their case.

Woman gets 20 years in Milwaukee student's death

MILWAUKEE (AP)—A judge in Milwaukee has sentenced a 21-year-old woman to 20 years in prison for helping a new boyfriend kidnap and kill a college student for his car. Tammi LaFave pleaded guilty in March to a charge of felony murder. The case involved 31-year-old Haroon Khan, who thought he was going to show his 2006 Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution to potential buyers last October. According to the criminal complaint, LaFave and her 20-year-old boyfriend, Travis Zoellick, met Khan in Milwaukee. LaFave was from Delafield, Wis., and Zoellick was from Watertown. Officials said Zoellick pulled a gun on Khan, drove him to a wooded area near Watertown and stabbed him to death. Zoellick killed himself when police approached his home.

Mich. town mourns as 5-year-old girl laid to rest

MONROE, Mich. (AP)—Mourners embraced family members Saturday as they filed past the closed casket of a 5-year-old found buried along a river, paying final respects to a girl described by one of them as "Monroe's little angel." Some 700 people attended the funeral service in Stewart Road Church of God for Nevaeh Buchanan, whose disappearance triggered a massive search by police and residents alike. Her death, still under investigation, cast a shadow of grief over the close-knit, blue-collar city of 22,000. "That one little girl was so powerful, she brought the community together," said the Rev. Dale Hayford, senior pastor of Crosswalk Community Church, who along with the Rev. Sam Luke officiated at the service. Two large screens showed a slideshow of photos from Nevaeh's short life.

Asia

Defying sanctions, NKorea vows to make more nukes

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea responded to new U.N. sanctions with more defiance, promising Saturday to step up its nuclear bomb-making program by enriching uranium and threatening war on any country that dares to stop its ships on the high seas.

The North's threats were the first public acknowledgment that the reclusive communist nation has been running a secret uranium enrichment program. Suspicions of the program touched off the latest nuclear crisis in 2002.

The country also vowed never to give up its nuclear ambitions as a way to protect its sovereignty amid signs of preparations for naming its ailing leader Kim Jong Il's youngest son, Jong Un, as his successor.

Despite repeated assurances from Washington, North Korea has harbored deep-rooted suspicions that the U.S. could invade to topple its regime.

"It has become an absolutely impossible option for (North Korea) to even think about giving up its nuclear weapons," the North's Foreign Ministry said in a statement carried by the country's official Korean Central News Agency.

Swine flu hits Australian lacrosse team in SKorea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—An Australian lacrosse team has been quarantined in South Korea after a player tested positive for swine flu, an official said Sunday.

The 19-year-old has been in a hospital since Saturday when he tested positive for the virus after arriving at Incheon International Airport near Seoul, said Health Ministry official Park Il-hun.

Park said 26 other team members, including players and coaches, were quarantined in a hotel in Suwon just south of Seoul although they don't display symptoms of swine flu, also known as influenza A(H1N1).

Park said the Australian squad would be isolated in the hotel for one week. They flew together from Melbourne to Seoul via Hong Kong, Park said.

The under-21 Australian team was to participate in the Asia Pacific Games, which runs Tuesday to Sunday. Park said authorities are urging the Australians not to participate.

Assistant coach Greg Mollison told the Australian Associated Press news agency that that the group has been provided with Tamiflu drug, but that the team is concerned about missing the tournament because of the quarantine.

Militants kill 5 Philippine marines in ambush

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Al-Qaida-linked militants holding an Italian Red Cross worker captive killed five Philippine marines and wounded 10 others in an ambush Saturday on a southern island. One police officer was wounded.

Also in the south, the military said fighting with a different militant group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, left 10 dead and 20 wounded on Friday.

About 40 militants from the al-Qaeda-linked Abu Sayyaf group attacked marines and special operations police pursuing Abu Sayyaf gunmen holding 62-year-old Eugenio Vagni outside Parang township on Jolo island, said marines spokesman Lt. Col. Edgard Arevalo.

"They were treacherously fired upon," Arevalo said.

He said the militants, who attacked with high-powered firearms and grenades, also suffered an undetermined number of deaths.

There was no word on Vagni, who is suffering from hypertension and hernia. He marked his 150th day in captivity Saturday.

Vagni was one of three International Committee of the Red Cross workers kidnapped on Jolo, an impoverished Muslim region 590 miles (950 kilometers) south of Manila, on Jan. 15. Abu Sayyaf militants have freed the two others—Filipino Mary Jean Lacaba and Swiss Andreas Notter.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Report: Feud, falsehoods sparked US Afghan attack

LONDON (AP)—A British television report to be broadcast on Monday says American forces who killed scores of people last August in Azizabad, western Afghanistan, attacked the village on the basis of false allegations inspired by a blood feud with a neighboring community. An hour-long, in-depth documentary, previewed by The Associated Press and to be broadcast by Channel 4, includes scenes from a Herat provincial court trial in which a leader from the rival village was sentenced to death for murder for having given false information leading to the deaths of 91 innocent Azizabad civilians. Despite that court ruling, the U.S. Central Command maintains its position that the Americans killed 22 Taliban fighters, along with only 33 civilians.

Afghan ballots to have 41 candidates for president

KABUL (AP)—President Hamid Karzai and 40 other candidates will appear on the ballot for president this August in a crowded political lineup Afghanistan's electoral commission chief on Saturday called "shameful." Karzai is considered the clear front-runner to win Afghanistan's second presidential election since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion toppled the Taliban regime. His strongest challengers in the Aug. 20 vote include former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani and former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah. Two women are also among the 41 candidates. In announcing the final list of candidates, Azizullah Lodin, the head of Afghanistan's election commission, said he believed that many of the candidates were not qualified but said he had no power to remove them from the ballot.

4 dead as insurgents attack in southern Thailand

PATTANI, Thailand (AP)—Suspected Muslim insurgents killed four people and wounded 20 in separate incidents across southern Thailand, police said Saturday - the latest in a violent spree that started with a massacre at a mosque nearly a week ago. The latest attacks included a bomb attack on a bus, a drive-by shooting, an ambush and a bomb explosion at a grocery store, police reports said. Violence has occurred daily in southern Thailand since Monday's killing of 10 Muslims at a mosque in neighboring Narathiwat province. Thai authorities say the attacks are aimed at igniting sectarian conflict between Muslims and Buddhists in Thailand's three southernmost provinces, where the five-year-old insurgency has killed more than 3,400 people.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-018

Project Management Services
for PSS Construction Projects in Rota

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified individuals or firms to manage PSS construction projects on the island of Rota, CNMI

Beginning June 15, 2009 the Scope of Work and related information is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. Requests faxed to 664.3791 will also be entertained.

Proposals shall be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"RFP 09-018"** containing one (l) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than 11:30 a.m. on July 2, 2009. Any proposal received after this date and time will not be accepted.

Procedural questions shall be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax to 664.3791 or e-mailed to florian@saipan.com. Technical questions may be addressed to David Loan, PSS CIP Coordinator, via fax to 237.3009 or e-mailed to loand@PSS.MP.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 09-024

"Laptops and related equipments for Garapan Elementary School (GES)"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase of **Laptops and Related Equipments for Garapan Elementary School**. The Scope of Work is available at PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill. Saipan, MP 96950

All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 09-024"** containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.,** at which time bids, will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Questions shall be in writing addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply Officer or Email to the following address: **florian@saipan.com**

/ S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

World

Election battles turn into many street fights in Iran

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Opponents of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad clashed with police in the heart of Iran's capital Saturday, pelting them with rocks and setting fires in the worst unrest in Tehran in a decade. They accused the hardline president of using fraud to steal election victory from his reformist rival.

The brazen and angry confrontations—including stunning scenes of masked rioters tangling with black-clad police—pushed the self-styled reformist movement closer to a possible moment of truth: Whether to continue defying Iran's powerful security forces or, as they often have before, retreat into quiet dismay and frustration over losing more ground to the Islamic establishment.

■ ■ ■

The U.S. and Canada challenged Iran's claims that hardliner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad won re-election, but much of the rest of the world remained silent Saturday despite claims of fraud and scenes of clashes on the streets of Tehran.

The U.S. refused to accept Ahmadinejad's claim of a landslide and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said she hoped the outcome reflected the "genuine will and desire" of Iranian voters.

"We are monitoring the situation as it unfolds in Iran, but we, like the rest of the world, are waiting and watching to see what the Iranian people decide," Clinton told reporters during a visit to Canada.

Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon said his country, too, was "deeply concerned" by reports of irregularities.

AP

A supporter of Iranian reformist presidential candidate, Mir Hossein Mousavi, holds a piece of stone and with his covered his face with green scarf symbolizing his party's color as the others burn a trash bin in Tehran, Saturday, June 13, 2009.

WORLD BRIEFS

US suspect says she saw slain woman as a friend

PERUGIA, Italy—An American student who denies murdering her British roommate testified that she was shocked by the death of a woman she considered her friend, and said a "crescendo" of police pressure led her to accuse an innocent man. Amanda Knox of Seattle had already told the court on Friday that she was not in the apartment she shared with Meredith Kercher on the night in 2007 when the British woman was slain. Knox, 21, and Italian co-defendant Raffaele Sollecito, her ex-boyfriend, are accused of murder and sexual violence in the slaying of Kercher, who was found in a pool of blood Nov. 2, 2007 in the shared apartment in this central Italian town. Knox took the stand for the first time Friday and said she spent the night of the killing at Sollecito's apartment. Prosecutors believe Knox, Sollecito and a third suspect convicted in a separate trial went to Kercher's home the night of the murder and killed the British woman in what began as a sex game.

Air France jet sent message on rudder problem

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—A burst of automatic messages sent by Air France Flight 447 before it crashed includes one about a problem with a rudder safety device but lacks decisive clues as to what sent the jet plunging into the Atlantic Ocean two weeks ago, an aviation expert said Saturday. The industry official, who has knowledge of the Air France investigation, told The Associated Press that a transcript of the messages posted on the Web site EuroCockpit is authentic but inconclusive. One of the 24 automatic messages sent from the plane minutes before it disappeared May 31 with 228 on board points to a problem in the "rudder limiter," a mechanism that limits how far the plane's rudder can move. The flight was headed from Rio de Janeiro to Paris through an area of fierce thunderstorms.

Iraqi leaders rally after murder of Sunni lawmaker

BAGHDAD (AP)—The government Saturday blamed al-Qaida in Iraq for killing a prominent Sunni lawmaker as leaders across the sectarian divide rallied together, deploring the murder and pledging to prevent a new wave of religious violence that once plunged the country to the brink of civil war. Harith al-Obeidi, leader of the largest Sunni bloc in parliament, and his bodyguard were shot dead Friday as they left a Baghdad mosque after prayers. The gunman died when he triggered a grenade as he was chased by police and mosque guards. No group claimed responsibility for the brazen attack, which could threaten efforts to reconcile the country's rival ethnic and religious communities. The Interior Ministry spokesman, Maj. Gen. Abdul-Karim Khalaf, said evidence so far pointed to al-Qaida in Iraq, a Sunni terror network that frequently targets fellow Sunnis who speak out in favor of national reconciliation.

Health

Immune system taught to fight deadly skin cancer

AP

Dr. Patrick Hwu, left, talks with his cancer patient Hilde Stapleton during an examination at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Stapleton has been receiving an experimental treatment for melanoma.

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—For the first time, a novel treatment that trains the immune system to fight cancer has shown modest benefit in late-stage testing against the deadly skin cancer melanoma.

The approach is called a cancer vaccine, even though it treats disease rather than prevents it. In a study of about 180 patients already getting standard therapy, the vaccine doubled the number of patients whose tumors shrank, and extended the time until their cancer worsened by about six weeks.

"Although the differences may seem small, we need to understand that in many cancers, our progress has been built in small incremental changes over time," said Dr. Len Lichtenfeld of the American Cancer Society.

Trends in the study suggest that the vaccine also may improve survival, but patients need to be followed longer to see if this proves true, said Dr. Douglas Schwartzentruber, cancer chief at Goshen Health System in central Indiana. He led the study and gave results Saturday at an American Society of Clinical Oncology meeting.

The National Cancer Institute developed the vaccine, which has not yet been commercially licensed. The institute sponsored the study, along with Novartis AG, which makes interleukin-2, the standard treatment.

Interleukin-2 stimulates the immune system to make specialized cells that attack cancer. However, only 10 to 15 percent of patients with advanced melanoma see their tumors shrink with this harsh treatment, which causes severe flu-like symptoms and must be given in the hospital.

Stay healthy while traveling

By LINDSAY MINNEMA
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Whether you're a frequent flyer who travels regularly for work or just an occasional vacationer, you don't have to give up on all your health and fitness goals when you are on the road. Rebecca Johnson and Bill Tulin, the authors of "Travel Fitness," a guide to diet and exercise while traveling, offer these tips:

■ Before boarding your plane, drink two 8-ounce glasses of water. Keep drinking water on the plane to avoid dehydration.

■ Plan to arrive at your destination during the day so that when you get there you can take advantage of remaining daylight to do something active outside.

■ Set a goal of exercising at least every third day to keep your energy level up, performing at least a third of your typical aerobic routine. Complete your strength training routine at least once a week.

■ To help yourself pick healthier meals when eating out, decide on what you want before you even look at the menu, such as steamed veggies or fish, and just order it.

■ ■ ■

Tired of spending a fortune on expensive hair care products? Maybe it is time to re-evaluate your diet. Eating more of certain foods can provide your body with the vitamins and minerals it needs to grow healthy, shiny and soft hair. Though not a cure for baldness, these foods (suggested by WebMD) can add life to dry, limp locks:

Salmon: It's loaded with omega-3 fatty acids, vitamin B-12 and iron, which boost the health of your scalp.

Dark Green Veggies: The vitamins A and C found in greens such as spinach help the body produce sebum, an oily substance secreted by the hair follicles. It's a natural hair conditioner.

Nuts: Walnuts, cashews, pecans and almonds, especially, are good sources of zinc, which can ward off shedding.

Poultry: Severe protein deficiency can make your hair brittle or dull. But foods such as chicken and turkey can fix that.

Milk and Yogurt: Dairy, of course, is a great source of calcium, which is important for hair growth.

For even more hair-healthy foods, visit www.webmd.com.

■ ■ ■

Looking to slim down for bathing suit season? Put down that soda! Cutting back on calories from sugary beverages can go a long way to helping you shed pounds. Even drinking one less sugary beverage per day can mean a loss of more than two pounds over 18 months. While not by itself the ticket to a smaller pant size, limiting liquid calories does contribute to a healthier lifestyle when coupled with regular exercise and smart eating habits.

Life & Style

Stray dog captures the limelight in 'PAWS Wars'

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Participants and organizers of the third annual PAWS Best of the Worst Dog Show pose for a group photo after the event held at the CPA airport ground last Saturday.

Some weeks ago, a skinny, almost dying dog with no hair and rashes all over his body was spotted by the president of the CNMI Pet Assistance and Welfare Services near the Payless Supermarket along Beach Road.

Naturally, Katie Busenkell picked up the stray dog and treated him before turning him over to a new caretaker, Andres Buitrago, who named the dog Yoda, after one of the characters in *Star Wars*.

The tender loving care worked miracles on this lucky stray. Last Saturday, Yoda became an instant star at the third annual PAWS Best of the Worst Dog Show, winning first place in the booniest dog category and third in his portrayal of a Star Wars character.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
MC Torregoza shows off Barbie, a five-year-old Pomeranian who won the main award category, Best in Show, at the third annual PAWS Best of the Worst Dog Show held at the CPA airport ground last Saturday.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Amanda Lorenz' Lucky was adjudged first place in the fattest dog category.

Yoda was just one of the 26 entries in the dog show that drew a huge crowd at the CPA airport ground last Saturday.

Barbie, a five-year-old Pomeranian owned by MC Torregoza, won the main award category, Best in Show. Pepa, a two-month-old Maltese poodle owned by Alverick Alvarez, was second, while Bernie dog Kui owned by Ken Baer, was third.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Alverick Alvarez carries Pepa, a two-month-old Maltese poodle, who was second in the Best in Show category.

Meatball, owned by Brad Ruszala and Kathy Pagapular, was first in the Star Wars category, portraying Princess Leia. Edz Blanco's Snow White, who also portrayed Princess Leia, was second.

Scott Hayden's Dima, a golden retriever and Australian shepherd breed, easily captured the Most Talented Award with his unerring skill with the Frisbee. Meatball showed off with some sitting and rollover tricks, placing second while Liza Eller's Dirk demonstrated a sitting trick and was third.

In the Most Disobedient Award, youngest competitor Jillian Ferrer's pet Chloe topped the category after the latter bit one of the cones at the grounds, drawing a big applause from the spectators. Adam Hardwick's Jake was second and John Blanco's Charlotte was third.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Andres Buitrago receives his prize after his dog Yoda won first place in the booniest dog category and third in his portrayal of a Star Wars character.

Kathleen Herman's Rossi placed second to Yoda in the booniest category; Hardwick's Jake placed third.

In the fattest category, Amanda Lorenz' Lucky was adjudged first place, Bruce MacMillan's Missy was second and Wendy Lorenz's Pepper was third.

Busenkell thanked all the participants and sponsors for helping come up with a great show.

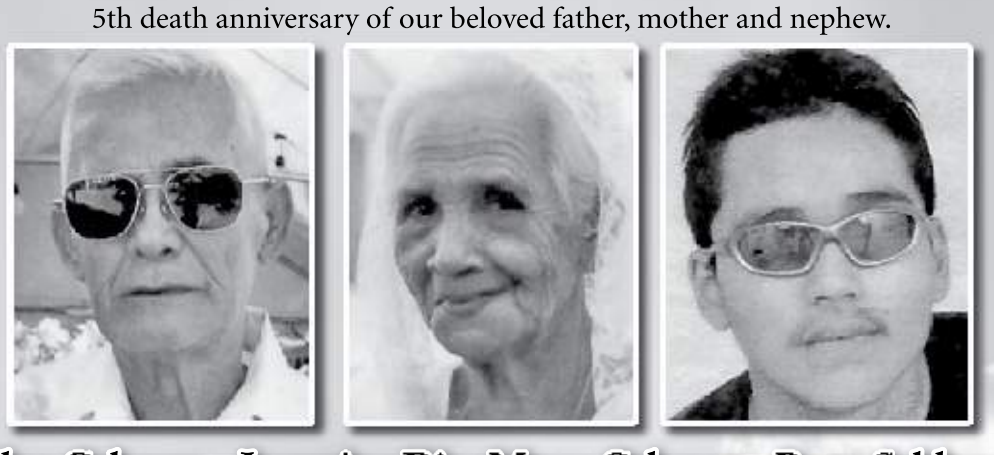
"We have an awesome turnout. We have new people who came out this time. We have a lot of new dogs and a lot of them were rescued. It's this kind of effort that we would like to do. It's a way of encouraging people to take care of their pets," she said.

The major sponsors this year were Seafix, Costco, Expressions, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Palms Resort, Fiesta Resort and Spa, Pacific Islands Club, Kikbak Band, Gus Kaipat, Trench Tech, HANMI and Pacific Trading.

Judges for the competition were Brad Ruszala, Jason Tarkong and Cinta Kaipat.

Joint Death Anniversary

We would like to invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the 16th and 5th death anniversary of our beloved father, mother and nephew.



Juan Sablan Cabrera
16th Year

Joaquina Diaz Muna Cabrera
5th Year

Ryan Sablan Cabrera
5th Year

Mass is being offered at San Antonio Church at 6:00pm from June 11, 2009 - June 19, 2009. On the final day, Friday, June 19, dinner will be served immediately after mass at the family's residence in Afetna, San Antonio.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you yan Si yu'us Ma'ase.
From the family

Could Palin flap be Letterman's Hugh Grant?

NEW YORK (AP)—Sarah Palin would no doubt be horrified by the idea, but there's a chance she could become the same boon to David Letterman's career that Hugh Grant was to Jay Leno's.

Grant's 1995 appearance on NBC's "Tonight" show after a prostitution arrest, where Leno famously asked "what were you thinking?," was seen in retrospect as a turning point in the late-night race. It drew a huge audience and propelled Leno to the top of the ratings, a spot he would not relinquish.

Letterman did not court last week's battle with Palin, who called him "perverted" for making a joke about her daughter getting "knocked up" by New York Yankee Alex Rodriguez, and he said in retrospect the remark was in poor taste.

Palin rebuffed his invitations to appear on the show, but that might not matter. The story had the effect of turning the attention to Letterman at a critical time, during the second week of his new competition with Leno's replacement, Conan O'Brien.

"It will be interesting to see if that can be maintained or whether it is one of those temporary things," said Robert Thompson, director of the Center for the Study of Popular Television at Syracuse University.

The final numbers won't be out until later in the week, but there's a strong chance that Letterman could average more viewers than the "Tonight" show in the second week of O'Brien's new 11:35 p.m. job. That hasn't happened since 2005, and the timing is significant: some of Leno's old fans may be more amenable to searching for a new late-night habit during the transition period.

It's difficult to tell whether Letterman received a boost this week because of people interested in what he was going to say about Palin. Strong guests like Julia Roberts and Denzel Washington were a boost, too.

Letterman has referenced the NBC transition in a handful of jokes over the past two weeks, many of them poking fun of himself as much as his rival.

"Conan O'Brien, of course, is the new host of the `Tonight' show,'" Letterman said a week ago. "Did they even look at my audition tape?"

On a top 10 list of Signs it's Time for Kim Jong-Il to retire, was No. 2: "Republic already named his successor, Conan Jong-Il. Topping the list of Surprising Facts about Sonia Sotomayor was: "Demonstrated impeccable judgment by watching Conan."

Despite the competition, no doubt it's hard for Letterman to exhibit the same animosity toward O'Brien as he did toward Leno. O'Brien has openly acknowledged his debt to Letterman, and his subversive anti-talk show style is more reminiscent of what Letterman did in the 1980s than what Letterman is doing today.

Letterman maintains his biting sarcasm, but at age 62 he has evolved into more of a traditional talk show host than his rivals. Thompson said he believes Letterman is more topical than ever, in part a recognition of Jon Stewart's success at Comedy Central. The Letterman of two decades ago attracted attention for dropping watermelons from the roof of a building or wearing a Velcro suit; now he gets it for charged interviews with John McCain or Joaquin Phoenix.

When Letterman did a brief filmed skit last week tied to Washington's new movie, "The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3" it seemed like a quaint throwback; O'Brien does such pre-filmed segments all the time.

"David Letterman's biggest problem is he was brilliant in going against the grain," he said. "David Letterman is now the grain. He's his own toughest act to follow. So that's why it is smart that he has tried to change the game."

Letterman, who went through a life-changing heart surgery and became a father in the past decade, seems committed to the new competition. It was revealed this week that he had agreed to a contract extension that will keep him on the "Late Show" into 2012, and there's no indication that he's looking toward retirement.

AP

In this photo released by CBS, actress Julia Roberts laughs as she holds host David Letterman's hand on the set of the "Late Show with David Letterman," Tuesday, June 9, 2009 in New York.

Madonna can adopt 3-year-old Mercy from Malawi

BLANTYRE, Malawi (AP)—There's mercy for Madonna - Malawi's highest court ruled Friday that the pop star can adopt a second child from the African nation, citing her love, determination, and "income tax returns."

In granting Madonna custody of 3-year-old Chifundo "Mercy" James, the court extended the definition of residency and brushed aside concerns by human rights groups that the nation is bending laws meant to protect children in a country where half a million have lost a parent to AIDS.

Madonna

"I am ecstatic," Madonna said in a statement in which she also thanked the court. "My family and I look forward to sharing our lives with her."

Madonna's lawyer Alan Chinula said the adoption was final with Friday's ruling, although this could not immediately be confirmed. He said he would now arrange a passport for Mercy, which could take several days, and was awaiting word from Madonna on travel plans for the little girl, whose mother died soon after giving birth.

James Kambewa, a man who claims to be Mercy's father - but acknowledges he's never seen her - told CBS News: "I'm crying. I need my baby. I don't know where I can find any help," the network said.

But Peter Baneti, an uncle, said the family welcomed Friday's ruling.

"We hope Mercy will be joining Madonna soon," he said by phone from his village just outside Blantyre.

Madonna, 50, adopted a son, David, from Malawi last year. Her request to adopt Mercy was rejected in April by a lower court that said the star had not spent enough time in Malawi.

Chief Justice Lovemore Munlo, reading the three-judge appeal court panel's ruling on Friday, said that was a narrow interpretation based on old laws and that "in this global village a man can have more than one place at which he resides."

He said the singer's commitment to helping disadvantaged children also should have been taken into account in the decision.

Madonna founded a charity, Raising Malawi, here in 2006. It helps feed, educate and provide medical care for some of Malawi's orphans.

The judge said Madonna had shown herself to be "intelligent, compassionate, articulate and determined since the early age of 6 when her mother died," saying the young Madonna had helped raise her siblings.

And he said "her latest income tax returns shows that she is financially stable; she can therefore look after the needs of" the little girl.

Children's welfare groups had expressed concern that rules meant to protect children were being bent because of Madonna's celebrity, and perhaps out of gratitude for what she has done for Malawi.

When Madonna adopted David, the process took months and included a child welfare official's visit to Madonna's home, which then was in London, to review her fitness as a mother. Chinula said none of this would be necessary this time.

"What the Supreme Court has done is grant a full adoption," he said.

"The matter of residence should be determined at the time of application of the adoption," Chief Justice Munlo read. "In this case, Madonna was in Malawi not by chance but by intention. She is looking after several orphans whose welfare depends on her. She can therefore not be described as a sojourner."

The ruling also said the judges saw only two options for Mercy: "either to stay at the orphanage without the love of family and live with the possibility of destitution, or be with Madonna where she is assured of love.

"Every child has the right to love," it said.

Madonna met the girl in 2006 at Kondanani Children's Village, an orphanage in Bvumbwe, just south of Blantyre. It was the same year she began the process of adopting David, whom she found at another orphanage in central Malawi.

The girl's 18-year-old mother was unmarried and died soon after she gave birth. Since Madonna moved to adopt the girl, a dispute has arisen between the girl's maternal relatives, who agreed to the adoption, and Kambewa, who says he is the father and wants to care for the girl himself.

The girl's maternal relatives have said they do not believe Kambewa is the father, and his objections were not addressed in Friday's ruling.

The chairman of the coalition of non-governmental organizations that had opposed Madonna's adoption efforts said Friday's ruling "disregarded" international agreements on children's rights and adoptions.

Freeman responds to Miss. car wreck lawsuit

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—The woman in the passenger seat the night Morgan Freeman crashed a car on a rural Mississippi highway was partly to blame for the accident, the actor's attorney said Friday in court papers.

Demaris Meyer is suing the 71-year-old actor in U.S. District Court in Oxford, Miss., claiming Freeman was negligent when the car he was driving ran off the side of a road in the Mississippi Delta and flipped several times.

Freeman

Both Meyer and Freeman were seriously injured in the August crash, which happened on a two-lane highway about five miles west of Freeman's home in Charleston.

Meyer, who lives in Memphis, Tenn., sued Freeman in February for medical expenses, pain and suffering, lost wages, permanent disability and property damage. The lawsuit alleged Freeman was drinking that night, though it stops short of saying he was intoxicated. No charges were filed.

Freeman's attorney, Jack H. Hayes Jr., responded to the lawsuit Friday in a four-page court document denying almost all the allegations or saying Freeman doesn't know enough about them to form an opinion.

Freeman admitted driving the car, and that it left the road and "sustained significant damages." The filing said he "would show (Meyer) is comparatively negligent," though it did not describe what that means.

Hayes would not elaborate Friday when contacted by phone.

"It's just a car wreck case and that's it," he said.

One of Meyer's attorneys, Walter Morrison, said Friday he had no comment.

Meyer claims in the lawsuit that Freeman's friend and lawyer, Bill Luckett, invited her to a party at Bayou Bend Golf and Country Club. She claims Freeman drank during dinner and afterward, then had at least one more drink at Luckett's home.

The crash happened when Freeman was driving Meyer's 1997 Nissan Maxima back to his home. Meyer has said Freeman was a "perfect gentleman" that evening and agreed to let her stay at one of three houses on his property.

Soon after, Luckett told reporters that Freeman and his wife of 24 years, Myrna Colley-Lee, had been separated since December 2007 and were getting a divorce.

After filing the lawsuit in February, Meyer complained that she "was labeled as the other woman" and "accused of having caused the breakup of Mr. Freeman's marriage."

"Nothing could be further from the truth," she said at the time. "I had hoped and prayed that Mr. Freeman or his representatives would have set the record straight and cleared my name, but they have not done so and that is why I have chosen to come forward to tell the truth about our relationship."

Freeman, who won an Oscar for his performance in 2004's "Million Dollar Baby," co-starred in last summer's "The Dark Knight." His screen credits also include "Bruce Almighty," "The Shawshank Redemption" and "Driving Miss Daisy."

Court records: Singer Usher files for divorce

ATLANTA (AP)—R&B singer Usher filed for divorce Friday from Tameka Foster Raymond, less than two years after their glitzy wedding at a Georgia resort.

The 30-year-old Grammy-winning artist, whose real name is Usher Raymond IV, filed the petition in Superior Court in Atlanta. Records posted to the court's Web site did not give any details about the split between the R&B star and his wife, who were married in August 2007.

About 200 people attended the wedding between the two at resort built in the style of a 16th-century-style French chateau on 3,500 hilly acres outside Atlanta.

They have two young sons, 1 1/2-year-old Usher Raymond V and 6-month-old Naviyd Ely Raymond. His wife has three children from a previous marriage.

E-mail and telephone messages to Usher's publicist were not immediately returned.

In a May 2008 interview with The Associated Press, Usher addressed negative feedback from bloggers over his relationship with his wife, who's 8 years older than him and was once his stylist.

"People are so attracted to drama. That's easier to take than a story of righteousness," Usher said at the time.

"I decided to marry this woman, then I decide to be a father to my child," he said. "... It's not like I got caught with a gram of coke in my car or speeding or was caught for murder, so why would I be ridiculed, that's why I don't understand—that's the part that is mind boggling. Why would I be ridiculed for that, even a year later."

Prior to the marriage, Usher had a string of public romances, most notably his three-year relationship with Chilli from TLC.

His hits include "Confessions," "Burn," "You Make Me Wanna" and "Yeah!"

In this May 27, 2008 file photo, Usher appears onstage during MTV's "Total Request Live" at the MTV Times Square Studios in New York.

AP

In this handout photo taken Sunday, June 7, 2009, released by the U.S. military, comedian Stephen Colbert, from the Comedy Central television program gets a military style haircut from General Raymond Odierno, Commander of the Multinational Corps, Iraq, during the taping the first of four shows at Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday, June 7, 2009.

AP

Troops in Iraq hailed by Bush on 'Colbert Report'

NEW YORK (AP)—Former President George W. Bush had a hearty message for troops serving in Iraq—and delivered it on a silly TV comedy show.

Appearing in a pretaped spot during Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report" on Thursday, Bush hailed the military.

"Your achievements in Iraq have earned you a special place in American history. You are men and women of great courage and endurance—and that's gonna come in handy," Bush noted, winding up to zing Stephen Colbert, the blustery "Colbert Report" host: "I've sat through Stephen's stuff before."

Bush said former first lady Laura Bush joined him in the shout-out.

"The Colbert Report," with Colbert as its comically pompous, conservative host, originated this week from Camp Victory on the western edge of Baghdad. The show's home base is Manhattan.

In rare appearance, the Boss plays Bonnaroo

MANCHESTER, Tenn. (AP)—They were sure to be chanting "Bruuuuuce" at Bonnaroo Saturday night.

Bruce Springsteen, one of the festivals two headliners along with Phish, was to take the main stage Saturday evening at the Tennessee music festival.

It's a rare festival performance for Springsteen and the E Street Band, whose festival experience has mostly been in Europe. The band's guitarist Steven Van Zandt earlier said he looked forward to playing for those in the Bonnaroo audience that might not have heard of or simply heard their music.

If such a person exists.

Bonnaroo is, after all, a relatively unremarkable gig for a band that has already this year played halftime at the Super Bowl and at President Barack Obama's inauguration.

AP

Bruce Springsteen and the E-Street Band performs during the Bonnaroo Arts and Music Festival in Manchester, Tenn., Saturday, June 13, 2009. At right is guitarist Steven Van Zandt.

Before Springsteen was to take the stage, his presence was already felt.

"If anybody boos us tonight, we have a built in excuse: They're just yelling `Bruce,'" joked Wilco frontman Jeff Tweedy.

Wilco played a scintillating sunset performance, running the gamut of their earlier material as well as songs off their upcoming disc, "Wilco (The Album)."

After torrential lightning storms Thursday and humidity Friday, Saturday was the sunniest day yet at Bonnaroo, which concludes Sunday night with Phish's second performance.

Saturday's slate also included Elvis Costello, who, before his set, joined Jenny Lewis on stage for a song: Lewis' "Carpetbaggers." Other acts Saturday included the Decemberists, the Mars Volta, Of Montreal, Raphael Saadiq, Booker T, Bon Iver, Robyn Hitchcock and Allen Toussaint. One stage—dubbed "Tennessee Shines"—hosted bluegrass all day with acts such as the David Grisman Quintet and the Del McCoury Band.

Law student trying to pass the bar is hampered by mom

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am starting to prepare for one of the most difficult hurdles of my career, the bar exam. Please tell me what I should do about my mother—who just does not seem to get it.

She interrupts me constantly about things that have nothing to do with me. She calls during my study hours with requests or comments about trite issues that could be more easily handled by one of my siblings.

Before I graduated from law school, my mother expressed doubt that I could make it through. She said that two of my sisters are successful in their careers without a higher education. Shouldn't family encourage and support one another?

FAMILY VS. CAREER IN BERKELEY, CALIF.

DEAR F VS. C: Yes, they should—but unfortunately, not all of them actually do, and I respect the fact that you have persisted in spite of your mother's lack of vision. You didn't ask for advice, but allow me to offer some. Turn your phone off and tune your mother out until after the bar exam is over.

DEAR ABBY: What is the proper use of paper and fabric napkins in a restaurant? My husband and I enjoy going to fine restaurants and including a young family member to celebrate a triumph and to teach something at the same time. We have always wondered what the proper etiquette is regarding the use of the napkin.

ANA IN FLORIDA

DEAR ANA: The "rules" are simple. When you are seated at the table, the napkin should be unfolded and placed on your lap. During the meal, it should be used to blot your lips if needed. If you must leave the table, your napkin should be placed to the left of your place setting. When the meal is finished, the napkin should be placed to your left—or, if the dinner or dessert plate has been removed, directly in front of you.

DEAR ABBY: For years I struggled with chronic pain from deteriorating knees. My husband and young child saw our family life slowly diminish because of my increasing physical limitations. Chronic pain and frustration changed who I was.

Last year I was blessed to be able to have both my knees replaced. I had a wonderfully skilled surgeon, persistent physical therapists—and a heroic husband.

He learned to do the laundry, grocery shopping, cooking, little girl hair, homework supervision and all of the other literal "legwork" required to keep our family going. And he did all this while working TWO jobs.

I am now completely recovered and realize how fortunate I am to have such a loving, devoted life partner. I make sure to tell him often how much I love and appreciate him, and I also tell others.

Abby, too often we neglect to recognize our own "everyday heroes." Please remind your readers that even what can seem mundane can be truly heroic—and to let their loved ones know that their efforts are recognized.

LUCKY WIFE OF A HERO, STAMFORD, CONN.

DEAR LUCKY WIFE: Thank you for an upper of a letter. I'm pleased you're singing your husband's praises, because he deserves to hear every note. You picked a winner.

Readers, I have heard from you often, offering stories about pennies from heaven and acts of kindness. If you have encountered people you consider to be "everyday heroes," I hope you will let me know so I can share their stories with other readers.

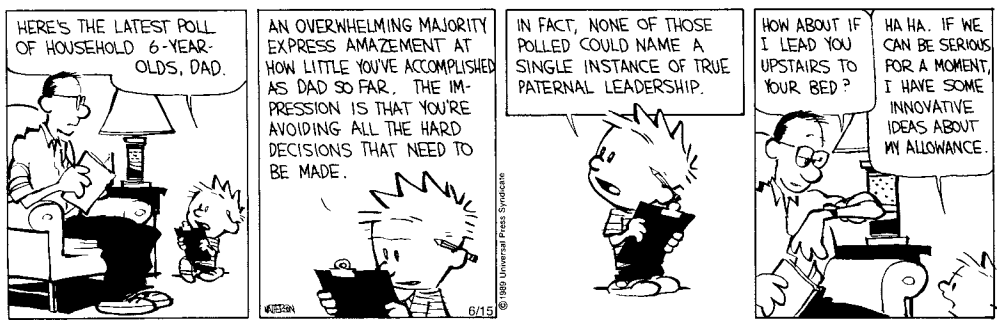
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HERE'S THE LATEST POLL OF HOUSEHOLD 6-YEAR-OLDS, DAD.
AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY EXPRESS AMAZEMENT AT HOW LITTLE YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED AS DAD SO FAR. THE IMPRESSION IS THAT YOU'RE AVOIDING ALL THE HARD DECISIONS THAT NEED TO BE MADE.
IN FACT, NONE OF THOSE POLLED COULD NAME A SINGLE INSTANCE OF TRUE PATERNAL LEADERSHIP.
HOW ABOUT IF I LEAD YOU UPSTAIRS TO YOUR BED?
HA HA. IF WE CAN BE SERIOUS FOR A MOMENT, I HAVE SOME INNOVATIVE IDEAS ABOUT MY ALLOWANCE.
6/15
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

THEY SAY AS YOU GROW OLDER, YOUR EARS AND YOUR NOSE CONTINUE TO GROW
LET'S NOT GROW OLD
DEAL
JIM DAVIS 6-15
www.garfield.com
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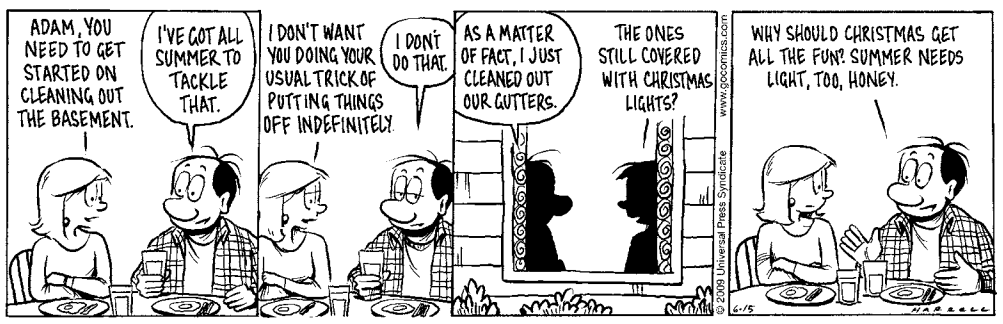
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ADAM, YOU NEED TO GET STARTED ON CLEANING OUT THE BASEMENT.
I'VE GOT ALL SUMMER TO TACKLE THAT.
I DON'T WANT YOU DOING YOUR USUAL TRICK OF PUTTING THINGS OFF INDEFINITELY.
I DON'T DO THAT.
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I JUST CLEANED OUT OUR GUTTERS.
THE ONES STILL COVERED WITH CHRISTMAS LIGHTS?
WHY SHOULD CHRISTMAS GET ALL THE FUN? SUMMER NEEDS LIGHT, TOO, HONEY.
6-15
www.gocomics.com
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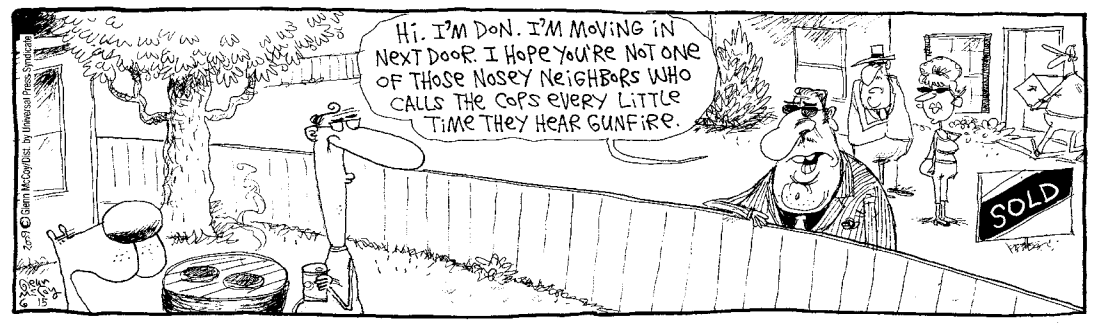
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


Hi. I'M DON. I'M MOVING IN NEXT DOOR. I HOPE YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THOSE NOSEY NEIGHBORS WHO CALLS THE COPS EVERY LITTLE TIME THEY HEAR GUNFIRE.
SOLD
2-9 © Glenn McCoy/dist. by Universal Press Syndicate

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

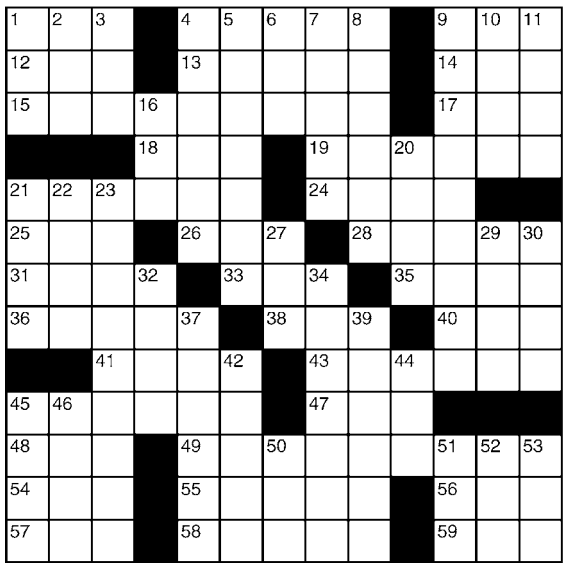
ACROSS
1 "Slippery" tree
4 Regions
9 Pismire
12 Vast expanse
13 Ballroom favorite
14 Actress Myrna
15 Letter from the Vatican
17 Cleopatra's slayer
18 Floral garland
19 Undeveloped stage
21 Reacted in horror
24 Leeway
25 "Uh-huh"
26 Thickness
28 Dynamite inventor Alfred
31 Disposition
33 Formal 25-Across
35 "I never — man I didn't like"
36 Porcine sniffer
38 Pen point
40 Varnish ingredient
41 Small salamander
43 In a whimsical way
45 IOU signer
47 Listener
48 Swiss canton
49 Sandbox toy, maybe
54 Zero
55 Mohammedanism
56 Pod denizen
57 Kenan's co-star on Nickelodeon
58 Autocrats
59 Upper surface

DOWN
1 Kreskin's claim
2 Meadow
3 Orienteering aid
4 Dormant
5 With great intensity
6 Ostrich's cousin
7 More skilled
8 Canned fish
9 Warning signal
10 Too curious
11 Error in print
16 Matterhorn, for one
20 Prosperous time
21 Workout venues
22 Charlize Theron film, "— Flux"
23 Ibis' kin
27 Hankering
29 Handy Latin abbr.
30 Frilly
32 Song for two
34 Motorcycle attachment
37 Cheap
39 Lullaby composer
42 Lock of hair
44 Sphere
45 Basketball tactic
46 A Great Lake
50 Chicken — king
51 Suitable
52 Zodiac sign
53 Once around the track

Solution time: 24 mins.

J	A	M		M	I	L	D		I	C	B	M
A	G	A		A	V	E	R		N	O	L	O
M	E	X		G	I	V	E		D	R	U	M
B	R	I	T	N	E	Y	S	P	E	A	R	S
			Y	E	S		S	A	X			
S	W	E	P	T		P	E	W		A	M	Y
P	O	L	O		Q	E	D		A	L	E	E
A	O	K		L	U	G		S	T	A	R	T
			S	E	A		B	I	O			
B	R	I	T	I	S	H	E	M	P	I	R	E
L	O	B	E		H	E	L	P		R	U	M
A	S	I	A		E	R	I	E		I	S	M
B	A	S	K		D	E	E	R		S	H	Y

Saturday's answer 6-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ice Cube, 40; Courteney Cox, 45; Helen Hunt, 46; Jim Belushi, 55

Happy Birthday: Finish what you start if you want to get ahead. Work through every detail until you get it right and can prove to others you are the best person to take on the task. Change is good but not when you flip back and forth, appearing undecided. You have to think every plan through thoroughly and succinctly. Your numbers are 2, 8, 10, 15, 24, 31, 45

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*: You will accomplish the most if you stick close to home and keep your life simple. Catch up on reading and correspondence and you will feel you've lifted a weight off your shoulders. Hard work will pay off. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*: There is information coming down the pipeline that you will have to keep a secret but that will help you make the right decision. You are in a much stronger position than you realize, so don't give in or back down. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*: It's vital that you are precise and stick to your game plan so you aren't considered irresponsible. Don't let your emotions lead you to despair. Money you were not expecting will come your way. Prepare to walk away if the deal isn't worth it. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*: Don't be a quitter when so much depends on what you do. An emotional discussion will help you solve an old problem that has been haunting you. An interesting proposal will alleviate some stress. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*: You have to tell it like it is and stop anyone from spreading inaccurate rumors. Stick to the facts and don't exaggerate your potential or you will be expected to do things that are impossible. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: You need to regenerate and rethink recent, worrisome events. A good friend will be able to shed some light on whatever situation you face. A change of heart will help you realize what you must do to enhance your personal life. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*: Use your power of suggestion and your ingenuity to fix anything that isn't to your liking. Travel or attending a workshop will help you come to a vital decision that you've been procrastinating about. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*: Don't let anyone push you or talk you into believing something that probably isn't fact. Stick to your own principles and intuition when dealing with people, contracts and money. Honesty will be what counts. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*: You cannot keep running away from situations you find uncomfortable. Face the music and put matters behind you so you can put your energy into accomplishing worthy goals. Address honestly problems that develop at home. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: You are ready to get things underway. So much can be accomplished personally and professionally if you are dedicated and forceful in your approach. Love is in the mix. Altering your home to suit your needs will pay off. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*: Networking, socializing and involvement in enjoyable activities will help you connect with someone who inspires you to get involved in a worthwhile event. A great surprise is heading your way and a serious partnership will help mold your future. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*: Don't feel guilty or hide from the truth. Face facts and you will be treated with respect. Past experience can help you do things differently now. You will be given a second chance. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, sensitive and imaginative. You will do whatever you can to get your point across. You are a gifted storyteller.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1			9	3	8			7
			2		7		1	
		8		5				
4	8		7				3	6
7		5				1		9
2	1				9		7	4
				9		7		
	5		8		4			
3			6	1	5			2

Difficulty Level ★ 6/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

4	3	5	9	7	6	2	1	8
9	8	1	4	2	5	7	6	3
7	2	6	1	8	3	9	4	5
1	5	2	3	4	7	6	8	9
3	6	9	8	5	2	1	7	4
8	7	4	6	1	9	3	5	2
2	1	7	5	9	4	8	3	6
5	9	3	7	6	8	4	2	1
6	4	8	2	3	1	5	9	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

NATASHA RICHARDSON (1963-2009) **Solution: 9 letters**

M	G	G	N	I	R	O	D	A	I	L	P	L	T	M
R	E	N	O	C	A	R	L	O	E	A	A	S	N	A
S	Y	H	I	T	S	E	W	I	T	E	R	A	L	R
L	T	L	A	N	L	N	N	T	H	A	E	L	H	Y
N	E	A	E	N	E	A	Y	C	E	J	N	L	A	E
O	I	N	G	O	D	V	I	H	B	A	T	Y	V	L
S	C	N	S	E	J	M	E	N	K	N	T	A	E	L
E	O	A	R	D	A	A	A	A	C	E	R	M	N	E
E	S	A	O	I	E	T	T	I	A	G	A	M	O	H
N	H	S	L	S	T	E	H	Ⓜ	D	D	P	E	R	S
I	G	S	L	A	R	T	Ⓛ	E	K	S	L	J	A	I
R	I	E	H	A	O	Ⓘ	R	Y	N	O	T	E	Z	L
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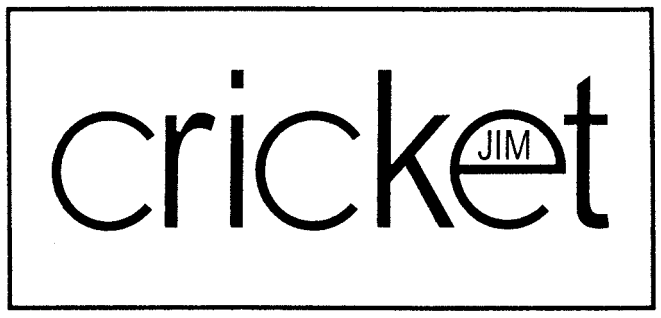

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Loss, Crosby's snub leave Wings with bitter taste

DETROIT (AP)—The Red Wings can accept that Pittsburgh is the Stanley Cup champion. Getting snubbed by Sidney Crosby is another matter. After watching Pittsburgh hoist the Cup on Detroit's ice, the Red Wings lined up to shake hands with the Penguins as is custom in the NHL playoffs.

Detroit captain Nicklas Lidstrom was up front, followed by alternate captain Kris Draper, congratulating many of the new champions while waiting for Pittsburgh's captain.

"Nick was waiting and waiting, and Crosby didn't come over to shake his hand," Draper told an Associated Press reporter a couple hours later as he was leaving Joe Louis Arena. "That's ridiculous, especially as their captain, and make sure you write that I said that!"

Crosby eventually skated over to shake hands with the Red Wings, but many had already headed for the dressing room. Detroit forward Johan Franzen and Crosby exchanged words and Crosby then shook hands with goaltender Chris Osgood and some other Detroit players.

The Penguins were unhappy with the accusation, especially since Crosby was photographed going through the line.

"Nobody respects the traditions of hockey more than Sidney Crosby," team vice president Tom McMillan said. "It was a young team celebrating its first Cup and some of the guys might have been a little late getting into the handshake line."

The losing team almost always leaves the ice quickly following an elimination loss, especially during the finals, and it was uncertain how long Lidstrom waited.

Pittsburgh didn't need Crosby to finish off the Red Wings, beating them 2-1 in Game 7 of the Stanley Cup finals without the superstar healthy enough to play for the whole game.

Pittsburgh Penguins' Maxime Talbot (25) celebrates with Evgeni Malkin, second from right from Russia, and Ruslan Fedotenko, from Ukraine, as Detroit Red Wings' Marian Hossa skates away after scoring the first goal of the game during second period of Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Finals hockey series in Detroit on Friday, June 12, 2009.

AP

Detroit was bitter about blowing 2-0 and 3-2 leads in the series, but the previous champions gave the Penguins their due.

"You've got to give them credit," Red Wings coach Mike Babcock said.

Goaltender Chris Osgood agreed.

"We're not stunned," he said. "They had a good team."

The Red Wings were good, too, just not good enough to overcome hurt or misfiring stars in the finals.

They swept Columbus, survived a seven-game series against Anaheim and skated past Chicago in five games as MVP finalist Pavel Datsyuk missed several games with a foot injury and Marian Hossa scoring in just three games.

But the Red Wings couldn't hold on to hoist the Cup for the second straight year and fifth time in 12 seasons when Datsyuk was out early in the finals and Hossa mustered only three assists against his former teammates.

"Any time you win three games in a final, you have a chance," Babcock said. "We just didn't have enough to get it done.

"The guys that were injured on our team this year never got their game back to the level it could be. And they were significant players for us."

Hossa wasn't hurt.

He was just ineffective.

Hossa seemed to crumble in the spotlight after turning down a lucrative, long-term contract last summer to stay with the runner-up Penguins to take a one-season shot at the Cup with the defending champions.

Hossa is eligible to be an unrestricted free agent again, but he wasn't ready to talk about his plans.

"I can't think about that now," he said. "I'm sure we'll have some talks."

The Red Wings will have some interesting decisions to make this offseason because they probably can't keep Hossa along with key free agents such as Jiri Hudler, Mikael Samuelsson, Tomas Kopecky and Ville Leino.

Detroit general manager Ken Holland answered some of the franchise's questions during the regular season by signing Henrik Zetterberg to a contract through the 2020-21 season and Franzen to an 11-year contract.

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said the deals, which are set up to pay the players much less toward the end of the contracts, don't circumvent the salary cap.

"The rules allow what the Red Wings have done," Bettman said during the playoffs. "But if I was running a team, which I'm not, I would opt for shorter-term contracts.

"If they keep doing it, some of the contracts will probably turn out to be great and some will lead to people scratching their heads."

Zetterberg likes his team's chances of competing for a championship next June and in the years to come.

"We still have a good team," Zetterberg said shortly after shaving his two-month thick beard. "It's going to make us stronger. We've got a great group of guys here that are going to be around for a number of years."

Howard: Magic will force finals back to LA

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Dwight Howard has his bags packed.

Showing off an it's-not-over-yet smile and a confident attitude, the Orlando Magic center said Saturday that the NBA finals will be headed back to Los Angeles. The Magic are down 3-1 to the Lakers but want to "make history," starting with Game 5 on Sunday in their final home game of the best season in franchise history.

"You want me to get up here and say the season is going to be over tomorrow? That's not what anybody should do or anybody should think," Howard said. "I believe that we're going to be going back to L.A."

Magic coach Stan Van Gundy wanted to make sure his team didn't lose hope.

So he called players in for a rare day-after-game meeting Friday to make sure his team had moved on from its Game 4 meltdown. Van Gundy, who hardly ever gives speeches or motivational pep talks, delivered one at the meeting about Greg LeMond's come back in the 1989 Tour de France he hopes will light a spark.

"He had come from behind and then taken the lead and then lost it on one of the late stages, and people started to write him off," Van Gundy said. "And at the end of the stage he looked beaten, and he and his wife were talking when they left, and they asked his wife what he had said.

"And he said, 'It'll just make the story all that much better when I come back and win it all.'"

The Magic's challenge might be just as difficult.

But Van Gundy doesn't want his team to believe they can win Game 5 unless they first believe they can still win the championship. That would take a record rally—no team in 29 previous tries has won the title after being down 3-1 in the finals.

"I think when you're in this situation, the key thing is do you still believe you can win the championship?" Van Gundy said. "If you don't think you can go to L.A. and win the championship, then even though you're saying one game at a time, it's pretty easy to let go if things aren't going well."

Orlando has had a season filled with rallies.

All-Star point guard Jameer Nelson went out with a shoulder tear in February. The Magic lost on two buzzer-beaters in the playoffs, twice rallied from a series deficit, won a Game 7 in Boston and knocked out MVP LeBron James and the top-seeded Cleveland Cavaliers.

Winning three straight against the best-in-the-west Lakers is another story. Even so, the Magic believe they can be the first team to mount such a comeback.

"Why not?" Magic forward Hedo Turkoglu asked.

It would take a big turnaround.

The Magic had 17 turnovers, missed 15 free throws and fell apart on defense in their Game 4 loss. The Lakers exposed their point guard struggles and clamped down on All-Star Rashard Lewis, who had just six points on 2-of-10 shooting from the field.

Howard's missed free throws followed by Derek Fisher's 3-pointer to force overtime left Orlando devastated. The Magic scored only four points in OT, struggling to find their rhythm.

But the past has meant little before with Orlando.

The Magic, a streaky team that can dazzle one minute and disappear the next, have been able to rally from tough losses simply by making baskets if their potent shooters can get hot. Orlando shot a finals-record 62.5 percent—and 75 percent in the first half—in its Game 3 win after missing a chance to take Game 2.

But this is the Magic's last chance to show their resiliency. There will be no more bounce-back games if they lose, only elimination.

It's a challenge they welcome.

"We want to try to make history," Howard said. "We've done a lot of things this year as far as a team and individuals and reaching a lot of different goals and breaking records and stuff like that, so why not try and do something else?"

UConn coach collapses after charity bike ride

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Connecticut basketball coach Jim Calhoun was hospitalized Saturday after he collapsed following a 50-mile charity bicycle ride during which he fell and broke five ribs.

Calhoun, 67, was taken to the UConn Health Center in Farmington, where he was listed in good condition. He was to be held overnight for observation and released Sunday, said Maureen McGuire, a hospital spokeswoman.

McGuire said Calhoun told her he hit a pothole and fell with about 16 miles to go in the ride, which began and ended in Simsbury, winding its way through northwestern Connecticut and part of southwest Massachusetts.

"He got back on the bike and finished the ride," she said. "Obviously, he's in extremely good physical shape. It was after he finished the ride, he was talking to some people and he did faint."

At the hospital, the Hall-of-Famer was told he had broken ribs during the fall.

Team spokesman Kyle Muncy said heat and dehydration contributed to the collapse, but said there were no other health concerns.

The Hartford Courant reported online that Calhoun was leaning against a car parked near the finish line at the Simsbury Performing Arts Center, when he slumped and fell to the ground as two friends reached for him.

The newspaper reported that Calhoun lay motionless and expressionless as his son Jeff and daughter-in-law Amy took off his shoes and socks and poured water on his forehead. By the time an ambulance arrived a few minutes later, he was conscious and sitting up, the newspaper reported.

He had to be talked out of driving by family and friends, including Boston Celtics star Ray Allen, who played under Calhoun at Connecticut.

"He's so stubborn, so stubborn," Allen told the Courant. "He doesn't want people to help him out. He's always been the type who feels he's invincible. I think we've all been there."

The annual Jim Calhoun Cancer Challenge Ride includes rides of 10, 25 and 50 miles. Organizers say it has raised almost $500,000 to benefit the Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Connecticut Health Center and Coaches vs. Cancer, a program established in 1993 by the American Cancer Society.

Calhoun is a three-time cancer survivor. A year ago, he underwent surgery and radiation treatments for squamous cell cancer, a type of skin cancer.

Calhoun, who has led Connecticut to three Final Fours and national titles in 1999 and 2004, missed the Huskies' first NCAA tournament game in March after being hospitalized for dehydration. Connecticut lost to Michigan State in the national semifinals.

Calhoun, who was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2005, has a career record of 805-342, good enough for sixth place on the NCAA Division I career wins list. He is 557-205 at Connecticut.

Lakers' Jackson fined $25,000 for referee comments

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The NBA has fined Lakers coach Phil Jackson $25,000 for criticizing the officials during Game 4 of the finals.

The league also penalized the Lakers $25,000 on Saturday for Jackson's comments, which came during an interview with ABC between the first and second quarters of their 99-91 overtime victory Thursday.

Jackson said there were some "bogus" calls after the Lakers' Pau Gasol, Lamar Odom and Andrew Bynum each picked up two fouls in the first quarter.

Dodgers sparked by power outage, down Rangers

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—The Los Angeles Dodgers scored immediately after a long delay because of a lighting failure, and beat the Texas Rangers 3-1 in baseball interleague play on Saturday.

After the 1 hour, 41-minute delay, Juan Pierre singled to start the sixth inning when play resumed, moved around to third on a stolen base and throwing error and scored on Rafael Furcal's grounder.

The run ended Texas' streak of 24 shutout innings.

Texas tied it in the bottom of the inning, but Matt Kemp hit a two-out two-run homer in the seventh to complete the scoring and improve Los Angeles' record to a majors-best 41-22.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Matt Kemp, left, reacts after hitting a two-run home run to score teammate Mark Loretta, right, off a pitch from Texas Rangers' Jason Grilli during the seventh inning of a baseball game, Saturday, June 13, 2009, in Arlington, Texas.

Red Sox 11, Phillies 6

In Philadelphia, Jason Bay and Jacoby Ellsbury homered and Julio Lugo had four hits as Boston overcame Philadelphia.

Four Red Sox relievers worked through five innings for only two runs conceded after starter Daisuke Matsuzaka lasted only four, allowing four runs. After going 18-3 last year, the Japanese is 1-4 with an expensive 7.55 ERA this season.

Mets 6, Yankees 2

In New York, pitcher Fernando Nieve earned his first major league victory in three years as the Mets bounced back from a discouraging loss to beat the Yankees in their New York showdown.

The Mets lost the series opener on Friday when second baseman Luis Castillo spilt the game-ending catch in the ninth, allowing two runs to score.

Nieve allowed only four hits over 6 2-3 innings in his first major league start in three years.

Omir Santos drove in three runs for the Mets.

Marlins 6, Blue Jays 5

In Toronto, Cody Ross homered and doubled twice to help Florida edge Toronto.

The Marlins won their seventh straight game at Toronto. Florida is 16-4 all-time against the Blue Jays.

Marlins rookie pitcher Sean West got his second major league win.

Pirates 9, Tigers 3

In Pittsburgh, Freddy Sanchez hit a grand slam and Adam LaRoche added a solo home run as Pittsburgh downed Detroit.

Sanchez hit his second career slam in the fourth inning to give the Pirates an 8-2 lead. LaRoche homered in the second when the Pirates scored four times.

It was only the eighth instance in 62 games this season that the light-hitting Pirates had hit two homers in a game.

White Sox 7, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Jose Contreras pitched eight scoreless innings, guiding Chicago over Milwaukee.

Contreras struck out eight and walked two, using his array of arm angles and breaking pitches to frustrate the free-swinging Brewers.

Since returning from a month-long demotion to the minors, Contreras has given up just three hits in 16 scoreless innings. This was his first road win in more than a year.

Cardinals 3, Indians 1

In Cleveland, Albert Pujols hit two home runs to lead St. Louis over Cleveland.

It was Pujols' 27th multihomer game and fourth this season.

Pujols' first homer of the game was his 1,600th hit in 1,301 career games.

The slugger then hit his 22nd homer of the season in the sixth, a huge shot deep into the seats in left-center for a 2-1 lead.

Twins 2, Cubs 0

In Chicago, rookie pitcher Anthony Swarzak scattered just four hits over seven innings, steering Minnesota past Chicago.

Minnesota got its runs in the early going after a 32-minute rain delay. Jason Kubel led off the second with his 11th homer and Joe Mauer singled in a run.

The Cubs couldn't get anything going against Swarzak, who was sent back down to the minor leagues after the game.

Rockies 5, Mariners 3

In Denver, Colorado's winning streak moved to 10—one off the franchise record—with a tight win over Seattle.

Chris Iannetta broke a tie with a sacrifice fly in the eighth inning, and Clint Barmes drove in a run with a fly ball in a two-run ninth inning.

Giants 5, Athletics 2

In San Francisco, veteran pitcher Randy Johnson limited Oakland to four hits over seven strong innings to earn his 301st victory and help San Francisco beat Bay Area rival Oakland.

Juan Uribe drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning for the surging Giants, who moved five games above .500 for the first time since 2004.

Angels 9, Padres 1

In Anaheim, California, Torii Hunter hit three consecutive solo homers as Los Angeles routed San Diego.

It was Hunter's first three-homer game in the majors. He was left on deck when a strike out ended the bottom of the eighth inning, costing him a chance at tying the big league record for home runs in a game.

Hunter became the 12th player in Angels history to homer three times in a game, and the first to do it for six years.

Hunter put the Angels ahead 4-0 when he led off the third with a drive over the left-field fence. The two-time All-Star made it 5-0 in the fifth with a two-out drive over the leap of the center fielder.

Hunter connected again in the seventh. Kendry Morales and Jeff Mathis also homered for the Angels.

Royals 7, Reds 4

In Kansas City, Missouri, Willie Bloomquist had three hits and three RBIs, helping Kansas City down Cincinnatti.

Billy Butler had three hits and drove in two runs for the Royals, who won successive games for the first time in almost a month.

Orioles 8, Braves 4

In Baltimore, Brian Roberts had four hits, including a double that highlighted a six-run rally in a messy seventh inning, as Baltimore defeated Atlanta.

A wild pitch, an error and two walks helped the Orioles' comeback. Baltimore trailed 4-2 entering the seventh, but then got the first four batters on base.

Astros 6, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, Lance Berkman hit his 300th career homer moments after Miguel Tejada singled home a run with his 2,000th hit, as Houston overcame Arizona.

Tejada singled in the sixth. One out later, Berkman homered.

Arizona reliever Scott Schoeneweis made his first appearance since his wife was found dead in the couple's home. He retired both batters he faced and walked off to a standing ovation.

Rays 8, Nationals 3

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Ben Zobrist and Gabe Gross homered during a seven-run sixth inning for Tampa Bay in the win over Washington.

The defending AL champion Rays moved two games over .500 for the first time this season.

Zobrist's three-run shot was his career-high 13th homer this season.

Gay keeps lead at St. Jude; Mickelson 10 back

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—The encouragement came at Phil Mickelson as he spent nearly 30 minutes signing autographs for fans after a steamy day that featured 21 holes. "We're praying for you," one fan offered. "We're praying for your wife," another said.

And Mickelson, his eyes red, kept signing even as he moved away from a shady tree to take care of people waiting patiently in the baking sun. He didn't escape to the air-conditioned clubhouse until everyone still nearby was satisfied.

It's nothing new for Mickelson, even after a long day where his putter remained balky in shooting a 2-under 68 Saturday. That put him 10 strokes behind Brian Gay—who can punch his ticket to Bethpage Black and the U.S. Open if he finishes off a wire-to-wire victory Sunday in the St. Jude Classic.

Gay shot a second consecutive 4-under 66 to keep the lead by a stroke, this time over Bryce Molder (65) after the third round at TPC Southwind.

But it's Mickelson almost everyone here is following, the world's No. 2 drawing the biggest crowds in only his second visit to TPC Southwind. With this his first event since announcing wife Amy's diagnosis of breast cancer, those fans seem to be trying to will Mickelson to birdies that might distract him from what the couple is dealing with, if even for a moment.

"It's pretty flattering. The people here have been terrific," Mickelson said.

Mickelson started by finishing his last three holes of the second round because storms stopped play Friday, causing damage including a tree partialy downed near the 15th hole. He went birdie, bogey and double bogey. Then he had five birdies and three bogeys in the third.

"I haven't putted well the first three days. I feel like I've struck the ball well but have not been able to get it in the hole and shoot a number, a good low number and mostly because of the putter," Mickelson said. "I'll spend some time on that in the next few days and should be able to get it ironed out for next week."

Gay came into this event among seven who had a chance to earn a trip to Bethpage Black with a win. The man who won Hilton Head by 10 strokes in April insists that wasn't his goal here. He expected to be off next week after he missed qualifying by three strokes and wasn't thinking about the Open.

"Not till you mention it. Not really. Not when I'm out there, I don't think about it. I mean it's a major. I'd love to play in it. I expected to be off next week ... I've got enough work to do here to not have to worry about that. Nothing I need to think about," Gay said.

Gay was at 14-under 196. Robert Allenby (68) was alone in third at 11 under, Paul Goydos (64) was 10 under, and Woody Austin (68), Heath Slocum (67) and Vaughn Taylor (69) were 9 under.

In this comeback tournament, John Daly made the cut on the line at even par in his first PGA Tour event back from a six-month suspension. He shot a 68 that had him 1 over.

Mickelson's goal here was to work on his game and sharpen his competitive attitude and steal a few hours respite from the whirlwind of emotions he and his wife have been dealing with over the past month.

He is hitting the ball well. His putter? Well, he needed 33 putts to finish off the second round and 29 in the third. He missed a par-saving putt on No. 18, his ninth hole, as it rolled over the left edge, and he had the perfect line on a 35-footer on No. 9 for birdie that stopped just inches short.

Mickelson said the putter will be the club he focuses on most before the Open begins Thursday. Not that he's finished just yet in Memphis.

"May come out tomorrow and see if I can get a hot putter and shoot something low," he said.

Players were pleasantly surprised at the conditions after rain soaked a course that has seen plenty of rain in recent weeks. That allowed them to attack pins.

"The job that the superintendent and his staff did, and the field staff, getting the golf course ready, pretty remarkable," Goydos said.

Even with officials sending threesomes off both tees in an attempt to get back on schedule, fans still found their way out to watch Mickelson start the third round on No. 10, yelling encouragement to him as he walked up to the tee. He looked relaxed and was smiling.

The fans stayed with Mickelson even with Gay putting on his own show on the other side of the course. He rewarded them with three birdies on his back nine, including a 13-footer he rolled in on No. 8.

It won't be easy to catch Gay.

He has carded only five bogeys this week, and his lone mistake Saturday came on 18 when his second shot from a fairway bunker hit the water. With Molder getting his sixth birdie on the same hole, a lead that had been as much as three strokes was trimmed back to one.

Gay had five birdies and was at 15 under, up by as much as three strokes during the round. His putting has been the key as he followed up 23 putts in the second round with 24. Gay has had 73 putts through 54 holes. But Molder and Allenby played almost as well.

"So I was making a comment to my caddy I couldn't get the tee box from like, seemed like nine holes," Gay said.

CNMI jr. netters begin NPQ campaign today

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Tennis Team left for Guam yesterday morning to compete in the 2009 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament, which will kick off today at the Rick Ninete Tennis Center in Tamuning Guam.

CNMI coach Jeff Race left with the 15-player team, which is composed of Woo Suk Chang, Nathan Nutting, Benjie Decena, Sung Hoon Ham, Jodel Fernandez, and Theecel Minor of the 18-and-under age group and 14-and-under's Rafael Jones, Christian Miller, Jake Lee, Chris Cajigan, Melody Johnson, Amy Arenovski, Ilia Corella, Negahr Rastguiy, and Jeane Bracken.

Lila Mailman and Dina Jones were part of the team, but could not make the trip. Mailman is still nursing a knee injury, while Jones has school commitments.

With Mailman and Jones out, Race said CNMI may lose one of the eight slots they are aiming for.

"However, I am still confident about the results of the games of our players. We still could get seven slots," said Race, who in an earlier interview said he will have his head shaved if CNMI gains eight slots on the North Pacific Team.

"We had a team meeting this morning and everybody was excited and upbeat. Our players are ready to go and give their best. Our last two weeks of training was very hard and I believe it will really help them this week," Race said.

Players from CNMI, Palau, Guam, and FSM who will make the NPQ team will play in the 2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji in August.

The NPQ will run from June 15 to 19 with the Top 3 players in each age group claiming spots on the North Pacific Team. However, only two players [in the Top 3] from the same nation are eligible to earn seats on the squad. The fourth slot is reserved for Kiribati players.

Last year, the CNMI went home with seven slots with Miller, Thea Minor, and Arriola getting a return trip to POJC and James Camacho, Dina Jones, Decena, and Rafael Jones joining them in Fiji.

This year, CNMI top junior players, Ji Hoon Heo and Thea Minor, are skipping the NPQ, as they automatically gained entries in POJC after placing in the Top 4 in last year's edition of the championships. Heo was runner-up to Vanuatu's Lorenzo Pineda in the boys' 18-and-under, while Minor finished third in the girls' 14-and-under.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Melody Johnson, seen here going after the ball near the net in last month's DFS tournament, and 14 other CNMI junior tennis players left for Guam yesterday to compete in the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament.

KANG

From Page 28

2-over par 38 before closing out strong with a 2-under par 34.

Hardwicke came three strokes behind Kang after the first nine holes with his 41, but had a better showing in the last nine holes with his 3-under par 33.

Taylor was consistent with his 37 on the front and 38 on the back nine.

Nine other golfers joined the Championship Flight with Lee Jong Won (75) dropping to fourth after losing to Taylor in the playoff. Chang Kyun Kim placed fifth with his 76, followed by former junior golfer Ahn Jin (8), Tim Taguchi (79), Ralph Yumul (79), Joji Taguchi (81), Rick Kautz (82), Charlie Jo (86), and Ned Norita (86).

It was Kang's second time to win the NMC golf tournament after ruling the same event in 2005. Kang is only the second golfer to win the tournament twice. Jess Wabol scored back-to-back victories in 2006 and 2007.

Wabol this year played in the Senior Flight and could not keep up with the unfriendly conditions of the course. He shot an 8-over par 80 to finish sixth in the Seniors Flight.

Former Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary Juan L. Babauta was runner-up to Manibusan with his 4-over par 76 after beating Tony Satur and Jess Taitano in a playoff. Satur settled for third.

Leina Kim, who played in the B Flight last year, joined the Ladies Flight Saturday and bested 11 other participants. Kim had a decent 5-over par 77 to beat Shiori Onoue, who fired a 7-over par 79. Kim and Onoue were the only two female golfers to log a gross score in the 70s.

Other top finishers in the one-day tournament were Leo Ganacias, Ben Duenas, and John Terlaje.

Ganacias ruled the A Flight, outclassing Asterio Tawanpiy and Federico Flores in the playoff hole No. 18. Ganacias birdied the playoff hole. All three players carded identical scores of 2-over par 74. Tawanpiy settled for second with his par, while Flores dropped to third after a bogey on the No. 18 playoff hole.

Duenas took a one-shot win over Ken Kalen in the B Flight with the former nailing an 8-over par 80 against the latter's 9-over par 81. Father Manny Corcuerra finished third.

In the C Flight, Terlaje recorded an 8-over par 80 for a four-stroke win over John Matsumoto (84).

X-TERMINATORS

From Page 28

nator pitcher to advance to second base and Ayuyu to third.

With Sakisat on second and Ayuyu on third and no outs, Sablan let the first pitch of John Terlaje drop to the plate before swinging for the second one and hitting his target.

Only four teams participated in the first qualifying tournament for KOD with Banzai and the Jets joining finalists Kulan Zamu Gear and X-Terminators.

The X-Terminators are composed of several players for Shell Marianas, which won last year's Saipan leg of KOD.

Joining Sablan, Ayuyu, and Sakisat on the team are Roy Celis, Ben Mesa, Eric Palacios, Popo Tudela, Dave Camacho, Sr., Mario Sablan, Bert Camacho, Thelma Mizer, Ben Tagabuel, and Oliver Secharmidal.

The next two KOD qualifiers will be held on Aug. 1-2, and Sept. 26-27. The fourth/consolation round is set for Oct. 3 and 4, while the KOD-Saipan leg is scheduled for Oct. 17 and 18.

Teams allowed to compete in the Saipan leg must place first in one of the first three rounds. Squads hoping to play in the fourth/consolation round should join at least two of the first three rounds. Winner of the consolation round will then take the last slot of the KOD-Saipan Leg and challenge the three early qualifiers.

The champion of the Saipan leg will represent the CNMI to the 2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament and will play the representatives of Guam, Palau, and Pohnpei. The four-island tournament will be held on Saipan from Nov. 12 to 15.

For more information about KOD, contact Liz Palacios at 287-8869 or Joey Dela Cruz at 483-4185.

ROCK

From Page 28

D-9ers' errors.

Rock Steady slowed down in the next four innings and started committing errors, allowing D9-ers to make a comeback.

D-9ers scored three of their six runs at the bottom of seventh before bad break caught up with the team, halting their rally and ending their chance to steal Game 1.

When it rained for the fifth time, D-9ers had only one out with third baseman Bob Lizama on second base and Jeff Tenorio at bat.

Game 2 is set for June 19. The winner of the Rock Steady-D-9ers semis tiff will meet the victor of the Ford Rangers-Tanapag Falcons semis affair in a best-of-five title series.

The Falcons stunned the pennant champions Rangers in Game 1, 12-7.

OCEANIA

From Page 28

women play Australia, and the Australian men play New Zealand in a possible medal-round preview. Meanwhile, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, the New Zealand women face the CNMI, and the New Caledonia men take on Guam.

That afternoon, New Caledonia will face Guam in a women's game, followed by the New Zealand-New Caledonia men's game. In the evening, the Australian and New Zealand women tip off in another possible gold medal preview, while the CNMI men will take on Australia.

Wednesday, June 24, is an off day for the players, coaches, and referees, but the Oceania Basketball Congress will meet to consider business matters and to elect new officers for the next four years.

The tournament resumes Thursday, June 25, with afternoon games between the New Zealand and New Caledonia women, and the Guam and New Zealand men. In the evening set, Australia will face the CNMI women, while New Caledonia take on the CNMI men.

The Top 4 men's and women's teams advance to the semifinals, which start on Friday morning, June 26. At the Ada Gym, the first-place women's team will face the fourth-place women's team, after which the first-place men's team takes on the fourth-place men's team. The second-place teams play the third-place teams at the Ada Gym. All eight teams playing in the semifinals will have to play twice, again due to scheduling constraints.

The finals start at 2pm, at the Ada Gym, with the women's bronze medal game featuring the losers of the two women's semi finals. The men's bronze medal game will follow at 4pm. In the evening, the women's gold/silver matchup will take place at 6pm, between the winners of the two semifinals, followed by the men's gold/silver game at 8pm. The medal presentation and closing ceremony will follow directly afterward.

Except as noted, all games will be held at the newly-renovated Ada Gym in Oleai. There will be no charge for admission, except for the semifinals and medal games on Friday.

Gold sponsors for the Tournament include IT&E, Shell Marianas, Tan Holdings, and the Joeten Charitable Foundation. Tournament patrons include the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Saipan Legislative Delegation, the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association, and the Saipan Grand Hotel. ***(PR)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	38	24	.613	—
New York	35	27	.565	3
Toronto	34	30	.531	5
Tampa Bay	33	31	.516	6
Baltimore	26	36	.419	12

Central Division

Detroit	34	28	.548	—
Minnesota	32	32	.500	3
Chicago	29	34	.460	5 1/2
Kansas City	27	34	.443	6 1/2
Cleveland	28	36	.438	7

West Division

Texas	35	26	.574	—
Los Angeles	31	29	.517	3 1/2
Seattle	30	32	.484	5 1/2
Oakland	27	34	.443	8

EASTERN CONFERENCE

East Division

Philadelphia	35	25	.583	—
New York	32	28	.533	3
Atlanta	30	31	.492	5 1/2
Florida	31	33	.484	6
Washington	16	44	.267	19

Central Division

Milwaukee	34	28	.548	—
St. Louis	34	29	.540	1/2
Cincinnati	31	30	.508	2 1/2
Chicago	29	30	.492	3 1/2
Pittsburgh	29	33	.468	5
Houston	28	32	.467	5

West Division

Los Angeles	41	22	.651	—
San Francisco	33	28	.541	7
Colorado	30	32	.484	10 1/2
San Diego	28	33	.459	12
Arizona	27	36	.429	14

Yesterday's Games

Minnesota 2, Chicago Cubs 0
Florida 6, Toronto 5
Chicago White Sox 7, Milwaukee 1
N.Y. Mets 6, N.Y. Yankees 2
St. Louis 3, Cleveland 1
Tampa Bay 8, Washington 3
Baltimore 8, Atlanta 4
Boston 11, Philadelphia 6
Pittsburgh 9, Detroit 3
Kansas City 7, Cincinnati 4
L.A. Dodgers 3, Texas 1
Colorado 5, Seattle 3
L.A. Angels 9, San Diego 1
San Francisco 5, Oakland 2

ST. JUDE CLASSIC SCORES

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)—Scores Saturday from the St. Jude Classic, a $5.6 million US PGA Tour event at 7,239-yard, par-70 TPC Southwind:

THIRD ROUND

Brian Gay	64-66-66—196
Bryce Molder	69-63-65—197
Robert Allenby	67-64-68—199
Paul Goydos	72-64-64—200
Heath Slocum	71-63-67—201
Vaughn Taylor	67-65-69—201
Woody Austin	67-66-68—201
Bob Estes	69-67-66—202
David Toms	67-66-69—202
Ben Crane	69-68-66—203
Fredrik Jacobson	67-69-67—203
Rich Beem	66-68-69—203
Guy Boros	67-66-70—203
Matt Weibring	70-66-68—204
Jason Dufner	68-67-69—204
John Senden	69-66-69—204
Tag Ridings	68-69-68—205
Chris Stroud	66-70-69—205
Jason Bohn	69-67-69—205
Aron Price	73-66-66—205
Jeff Overton	68-67-70—205
Kevin Stadler	69-66-70—205
David Mathis	68-69-69—206
Marc Leishman	69-68-69—206
Bill Lunde	71-66-69—206
Michael Bradley	70-67-69—206
Tim Clark	70-67-69—206
Michael Letzig	70-67-69—206
Graeme McDowell	66-71-69—206
Brendon Todd	73-65-68—206
Phil Mickelson	68-70-68—206
Nathan Green	70-66-70—206
Retief Goosen	68-67-71—206
Vance Veazey	67-68-71—206
Jason Day	70-65-71—206
Roland Thatcher	70-70-66—206
Lee Janzen	68-71-68—207
Jerry Kelly	67-68-72—207
Brett Quigley	69-66-72—207
Loren Roberts	67-67-73—207
Harrison Frazar	69-65-73—207
Ronnie Black	72-68-67—207
Brad Adamonis	68-72-67—207
Chris DiMarco	69-68-71—208
Scott Verplank	68-69-71—208
Patrick Sheehan	68-69-71—208
James Nitties	70-67-71—208
Mathias Gronberg	66-70-72—208
Glen Day	69-69-70—208
Bob Heintz	70-65-73—208
Paul Stankowski	71-68-69—208
J.J. Henry	70-70-68—208
Chris Riley	72-68-68—208
Jason Gore	72-65-72—209
Ricky Barnes	67-69-73—209
Peter Lonard	71-68-70—209
Robert Garrigus	69-70-70—209
Cliff Kresge	71-69-69—209
Jose Maria Olazabal	66-70-74—210
Jarrod Lyle	68-69-73—210
Camilo Villegas	68-67-75—210
Cameron Beckman	68-71-71—210
Omar Uresti	70-70-70—210
Brian Vranesh	73-66-72—211
Marc Turnesa	70-69-72—211
Derek Fathauer	68-71-72—211
Jay Delsing	70-70-71—211
John Daly	72-68-71—211
Nick O'Hern	72-68-72—212
Wil Collins	73-67-72—212
Greg Chalmers	68-69-76—213
John Merrick	72-66-76—214
David Gossett	70-70-75—215
Dicky Pride	69-69-79—217
Tim Herron	68-71-78—217
Jimmy Walker	65-72-82—219

By The Associated Press

The Week in Sports

Saipan Little League All-Stars shine

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Little Leaguers renewed their supremacy over their Tinian and Rota counterparts after sweeping the 2009 CNMI District Tournament held from June 5 to 8.

The Saipan Junior and Senior League All-Stars won two games each against Rota and Tinian to earn the rights to represent the CNMI in the 2009 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament later this month in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The host's Major All-Stars defeated Tinian and Rota in the round-robin elimination round then downed Rota, anew in the finals.

Also showing dominance in his own sport was Kai Staal, who was named top performer for the 2008-2009 season during Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan' second anniversary celebration at Aqua Resort Club.

The 15-year-old swimmer claimed that distinction after shattering records 18 times in the 2008-2009 season. To date, Staal owns 12 marks in the CNMI record books.

Tsunami Saipan also recognized swimmers who represented the club in various tournaments on and off-island, made records, and had more than 90 percent of practice attendance.

Posting records for CNMI from August 2008 to May 2009 were Rezne Wong, Kensuke and Shin Kimura, Kaito and Hiroto Yanai, and Ryosei Toda.

Recording more than 90 percent attendance were Wong, the Kimura brothers, Takumi Sugie and the Ryosei and Kosei Toda, and the Yanai siblings.

After hosting the 2009 CNMI District Tournament, Saipan is starting to get busy for a bigger event, the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament.

Tasked to coach the CNMI Men's and Women's Nationals against teams from Guam, New Caledonia, Australia, and New Zealand are Rufino Aguon and William "Bill" Sewell.

Aguon last week named 10 players to the CNMI Men's Nationals. They were Keoni Chariton, George Lieto, Oscar Ada, Kelvin Fitial, Quincy Johnson, Pete Iguel, Marvin Rabauliman, Danandro Barcinas, Joemary Tumaquip, and Jericho Cruz

Sewell had only a nine-player lineup in Lia Rangamar, Yvonne and Yvette Bennett, Dion Diaz, Lena Guzman, Mercedes Mesa, Nicole Lebria, Nikita Hofschneider, and team captain Connie Camacho.

Volunteers are also having their hands full getting things ready for the hosting of the FIBA tournament. Department of Public Works and Division of Sports and Recreation staff are joining forces in making repairs and renovations at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, while youth volunteers are undergoing training for handling the games statistics.

Still in basketball, action in the Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League and 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League, which are both being played at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan, resumed last week.

After completing its first round, the Shirley's caging took a weeklong break before four teams returned to action last Wednesday.

G4S and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan started the second round on a winning note after beating Micronesian Brokers, Inc., 75-74, and host Shirley's Coffee Shop, 112-105, respectively.

In the UFO caging, three games were played, included the rain-halted match between Bayani and Samahang Manggagawang Filipino.

Samahang Ilokano and Pangasinense dueled Northern Marianas Bartenders Association in the first game with the defending champion nailing an 89-82 win. Bayani then played in the second game and thumped SMF, 95-86. VisMinda closed out the night with a 118-73 rout of Cabalen.

Over on the Pacific Island Club sand court, the 2009 Miller Lite/Monster Energy Drink 4-Person Beach Volleyball League concluded with Numa Numa winning over Hoof Hearted in the finals, 25-20.

Numa Numa was also the pennant champion in the 12-team league after sweeping the regular season.

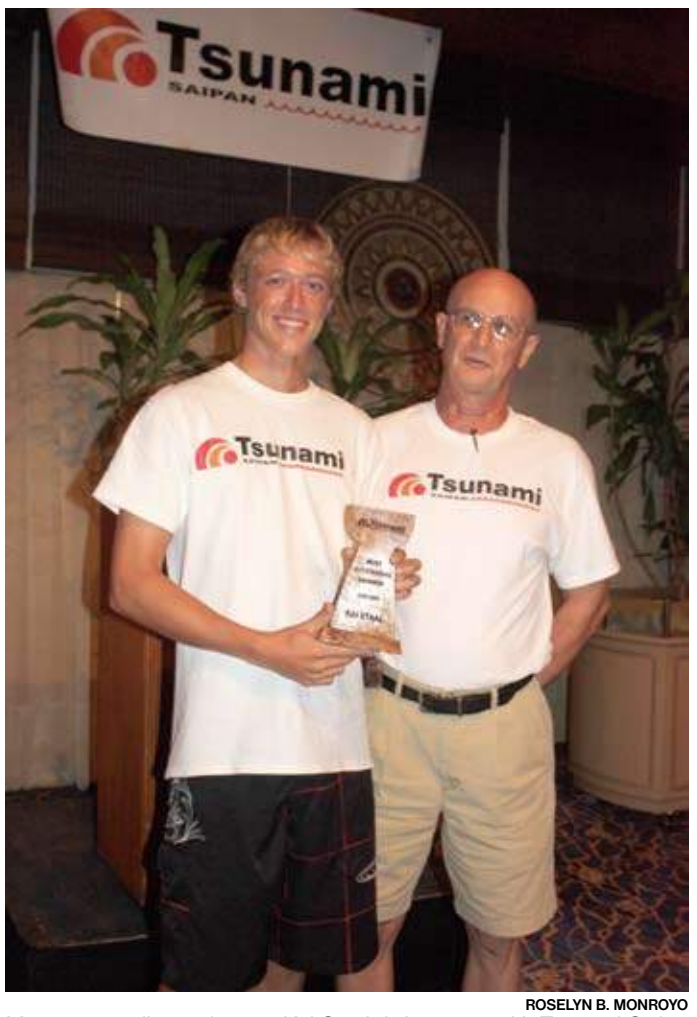
ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Junior All-Stars' Chris Mizer, right, is at first base waiting for the next action in their game against Rota during the 2009 CNMI District Tournament at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The eight Tsunami Saipan swimmers who recorded more than 90 percent attendance during the club's 2008-2009 season pose for a group photo.

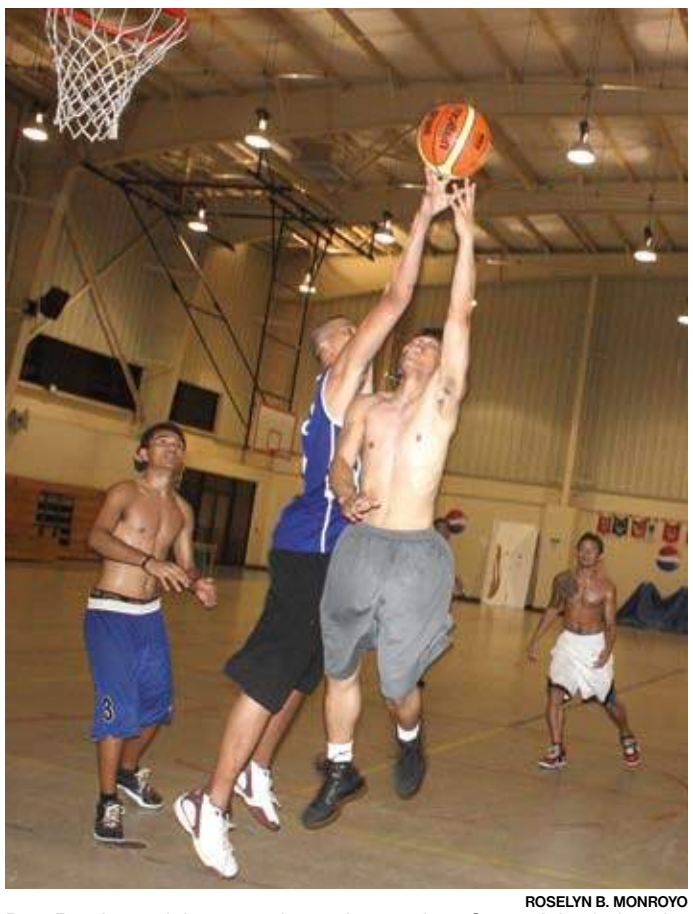
ROSELYN B. MONROYO
G4S' Orlando Soriano pulls up for a jump hook against MBI's Art Trajano, right, during their game in the Shirley's caging last Wednesday at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
VisMinda's Dan Mateo drives against two Cabalen defenders during their game in the UFO caging last Thursday at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Two Numa Numa players team up to return the ball to Hoof Hearted during their title game in the 2009 Miller Lite/Monster Energy Drink 4-Person Beach Volleyball League last Thursday night on the Pacific Islands Club sand court.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Most outstanding swimmer, Kai Staal, left, poses with Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan president Stan Good during the awards ceremony at the Aqua Resort Club.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Dan Barcinas, right, goes for a shot against Oscar Ada during the CNMI Men's Nationals practice last week at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium.

Loss, Crosby's snub leave Wings with bitter taste

The Red Wings can accept that Pittsburgh is the Stanley Cup champion. Getting snubbed by Sidney Crosby is another matter. **24**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Saipan Little League All-Stars shine

Saipan Little Leaguers renewed their supremacy over their Tinian and Rota counterparts after sweeping the 2009 CNMI District Tournament held from June 5 to 8. **27**

Kang claims second NMC golf title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Dandan Driving Range instructor Seung Woo Kang managed to save par against the not so ideal conditions of the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort to rule the Championship Flight of the 7th Annual NMC Foundation Open Golf Tournament last Saturday.

It rained Friday night, making the greens and fairways of the Kagman facility soggy. Saturday morning, golfers were greeted by a hot weather, but it rained again midway in the tournament.

Kang was one of the only two golfers who saved par in the fundraising event. The other one was former Superior Court presiding judge Ed Manibusan, who topped the Senior Flight.

Kang's even par 72 gave him a two-stroke lead over Adam Hardwicke and a three-shot advantage over 2004 winner Jeff Taylor. The Korean golfer struggled in the front nine with his

See KANG on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Championship Flight winner Seung Woo Kang, center, poses with NMC president Carmen Fernandez, right, and NMC Foundation board director Ivan Quichocho during the awards ceremony for the 7th Annual NMC Foundation Open Golf Tournament last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Oceania cage tourney sked out

The 2009 Oceania Basketball Tournament will tip off on Sunday, June 21, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, with the Guam men taking on Australia at 1pm.

The women's game start two hours later, with New Caledonia facing Australia. Then at 5pm, the CNMI women will play archrival Guam.

The opening ceremony will take place at 7pm, after which the CNMI men will take on New Zealand at 8pm.

On Monday, June 22, the Guam women play New Zealand and the Australian men take on New Caledonia in daytime matches, while in the evening the CNMI women will face New Caledonia and the CNMI men play Guam

On Tuesday, June 23, several teams will do double duty, as the tournament schedule was compressed due to travel constraints for some of the teams. In the morning, the Guam

See OCEANIA on Page 26

X-Terminators take first KOD slot

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Advance X-Terminators booked the first ticket in the Saipan leg of the 2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament after topping a qualifying tournament last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

X-Terminators pulled off a 1-0 victory over Kulan Zamu Gear in the finals with lefty Manny Sablan making the game-winning hit at the bottom of the seventh inning.

Sablan let go off a fly ball to the far end of the right field. Kulan Zamu Gear's Jun Kaipat thought the ball was going over the fence so it took him a few precious seconds to chase it. Had the ball gone over the fence, Sablan should have been out. Tournament rules allow only inside-the-park homers. However, the ball was in and Kaipat bobbled, giving leadoff batter Jerry Ayuyu enough time to reach home plate for the win.

The game was still deadlock, 0-0, after six and a half innings, as both teams played tough defense, showing quick feet and good catching hands in getting fly balls and diving for ground hits.

Going into the last inning, Kulan Zamu Gear's defense could not hang on, as the team committed two costly errors.

The first one was off Mel Sakisat's ground hit, which Jun Kaipat failed to pick up in time, allowing the X-Termi-

See X-TERMINATORS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Advance X-Terminators pitcher Mel Sakisat picks up a grounder during their finals game against Kulan Zamu Gear in the first qualifying tournament of the Saipan leg of the 2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Rock Steady moves closer to finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion Rock Steady is a win away from earning a return trip to the finals after outclassing D-9ers in the rain-soaked Game 1 of their semifinals series in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Baseball Friday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

A nine-run top of the third allowed Rock Steady to turn a 4-all score to a 13-4 lead. D-9ers rallied at the bottom of the seventh, scoring six runs, before rain halted the game. Thirty minutes after Game 1 was stopped, organizers declared the match rained out and handed the series opener of the best-of-three semis showdown to Rock Steady.

Tournament ground rules state only rain-halted games played in under five innings can be rescheduled. After five innings, a match is considered a regular game and if after 30 minutes the rain hasn't stop or the field is still unplayable, the leading team wins the match.

Shortstop Oliver Secharmidal and third baseman Toi Celis had three RBIs apiece for Rock Steady, while centerfielder Ed Manibusan added two RBIs.

Secharmidal went 5-for-6 at bat, hitting his target in his last five trips at the plate. D-9ers starting pitcher Mel Sakisat struck out Secharmidal in the first inning. Celis flied out in the first, but was 4-for-5 in his next stints at bat.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rock Steady's John Mafnas prepares to pitch in Game 1 of their semis series against D-9ers in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Baseball Friday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Manibusan also flied out in the first inning, but went 3-for-4 in his last four attempts at the plate.

Manibusan and Secharmidal sparked Rock Steady's breakaway in the third inning with the former making a two-run single and the latter hitting a two-run double. Byron Kaipat and Celis had a one-run single each and Rock Steady got its two other runs in that inning off

See ROCK on Page 26